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UN Denies Link to Minority Conference in Cairo

NC2604165394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA)—The UN Information Center in Cairo has denied that the United Nations or Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali has any connection with a conference on minorities in the Arab world scheduled to be held in Cairo on 12 May.

Hidayat 'Abd-al-Nabi, UN information official in Cairo, said Dr. Butrus-Ghali will not address the conference, adding that his name was associated with a conference with which he has no connection.

In a statement to MENA, 'Abd-al-Nabi said this conference is one among thousands of conferences held by nongovernment organizations and research centers. She added that the conference will be held under the joint auspices of the Ibn-Khaldun Center for Studies in Cairo and a London-based nongovernment organization that specializes in minority affairs.

'Abd-al-Nabi said the conference's name gives the impression that the United Nations is involved. She said that "the United Nations has no connection with the conference despite the title, which refers to the UN declaration on minority rights."

She added: To clarify the uproar that exploded in the media recently when an invitation was sent to the UN secretary general, the invitation did not mention the Copts of Egypt.

She stressed that on 12 April the UN Secretary General's Office declined the invitation on behalf of Butrus-Ghali.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian, Israeli Negotiators Resume Talks

NC2804153094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—The Palestinian and Israeli negotiators today resumed their talks on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Palestinian sources said that the security and legal committees stemming from the negotiations are now formulating the points agreed on during the talks held in the past few days and trying to resolve issues that have not yet been resolved.

The sources added that the negotiators are waiting for the outcome of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and also the outcome of Presidents 'Arafat and Husni Mubarak's talks, which will have direct bearing on overcoming the disputed points between the Palestinians and Israelis.

The sources expect the two sides to reach an agreement next week on implementing the Gaza-Jericho agreement in preparation for the signing of the agreement by Palestinian President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin under President Husni Mubarak's auspices.

'Arafat, Rabin To Sign Self-Rule Accord 4 May

NC2804142794 Paris AFP in English 1413 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, April 28 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will sign the Palestinian self-rule accord in Cairo next Wednesday, President Husni Mubarak announced here Thursday [28 April].

Rabin and 'Arafat will meet on Tuesday to put the final touches to the agreement, Mubarak said.

Jerusalem TV Gives Details

TA2804182094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Here are the details of the agreement achieved by Israel and the PLO. Israel has consented to the Palestinian administration's issuing its own laissez-passers [travel document] featuring the term passport. The Palestinians will be able to print stamps under the heading—Palestinian Authority. The autonomy will have its own international telephone area code. Israel has agreed to a temporary international presence in Gaza and Jericho composed of representatives of countries donating to the autonomy.

Possibilities of expanding the Palestinian powers on the Gaza coast and the al-Mawasi strip abutting on the Qatif Bloc will be explored. No agreement has been achieved on the Palestinian territorial waters. Israel refused to permit the appointment of a Palestinian overseer at the Rafah terminal.

Our correspondent adds that 'Arafat has pledged to propose annulling the Palestinian Covenant at the next Palestine National Council session. 'Arafat has further pledged to enter the territories as PLO chairman and not to claim any other title. He has not reiterated his demand to pray in Jerusalem. 'Arafat has again promised to make an effort to forward to Israel additional information about its POW's and MIA's.

Tonight the parties will probably conclude the issues of prisoner release and pardon for fugitives. The committee planning the 4 May ceremony has already launched preparations.

[A related report on Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 28 April adds that "Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho will begin on 5 May, the day after the agreement is signed in Cairo."]

MENA Notes 3 Differences

NC2804213894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—Diplomatic sources in Cairo have stated that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres agreed in their extensive talks in Cairo today on the need to overcome the remaining obstacles preventing the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho self-rule agreement.

In remarks to MENA, the sources revealed that only three points of difference remain to be resolved in the meeting expected to be held in Cairo between 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Tuesday. The three points of difference relate to the size of Jericho, the Palestinian police presence on the Allenby Bridge, and the control of the sea area in Gaza.

The same sources told MENA that the Palestinian and Israeli sides have agreed on the following:

1. A temporary international presence in Gaza and Jericho by elements from countries making donations to the self-rule areas, as agreed upon in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles signed in Washington on 13 September 1993. These elements will work as observers and administrative staff to provide social and other aid, as in the case of Hebron, but the number of observers is yet to be determined.

2. Regarding the question of Palestinian passports, a travel document (laissez-passer) will be issued. The word passport will be written at the top of the document, to be followed by the words Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority, abbreviated as PISGA. The document will be valid for three years.

3. It has been agreed that the border point in Rafah is to remain open 24 hours a day throughout the year to individuals and goods. The Cairo Agreement will apply at the crossing points.

4. A safe passage for the Palestinians between Gaza and Jericho has been agreed upon.

5. Regarding stamps, the sources pointed out that it has been agreed that stamps bearing the words Palestinian Self-Government Authority will be issued.

6. Regarding the telephone code, a certain code for the Palestinian self-rule areas has been designated.

The same sources emphasized that the two sides had agreed on the air space of the Palestinian Self-Government Authority in Gaza and Jericho. The sources added that the drafting committee is holding a meeting that will last until early in the morning to settle the question of legal jurisdiction.

The sources told MENA that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres had told 'Arafat that the Israeli troops' withdrawal from the self-rule areas would start the day after the agreement is signed in Cairo. Peres believes that there is a possibility of creating a new Palestinian reality, and this represents a goal for the State of Israel, the sources added.

The same sources pointed out that at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry this evening, small teams from the United States, Egypt, Israel, and the Palestinians are meeting to work out the arrangements for signing the agreement for implementing self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. Peres has commended the hard work of Dr. Nabil Sha'th and Major General Amnon Shahaq, heads of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations, noting that the two delegations have made a great accomplishment.

MENA has learned that when 'Arafat enters the self-rule areas in Gaza and Jericho, he will hold the title "Chairman of the Palestinian Authority." Diplomatic sources have told MENA that during the meetings between 'Arafat and Peres, it was agreed to discuss the issue of the Israeli army's MIA's and POW's. 'Arafat promised to exert all efforts in this regard.

MENA has also learned that the committees in charge of the actual transfer of the self-rule powers will start their work as of Sunday. The same sources added that Dr. Sha'th and Maj. Gen. Shahaq will discuss the question of the Palestinian prisoners in a meeting to be held tonight. They should be able to finalize this issue by Sunday. The sources pointed out that there is a general agreement on the number of prisoners and detainees to be released, adding that the details will be made public on Sunday.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has stressed that the Palestinian and Israeli sides have reached the end of the road of negotiations. He added: We thought we could face and combat terrorism with military measures alone, but now we must create a new Palestinian reality, and this is the goal of the State of Israel.

Troops To Withdraw From Gaza, Jericho 5 May

NC2804203094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has stated that the Israeli troops' withdrawal from the self-rule areas in Gaza and Jericho will take place the day after the implementation agreement is signed in Cairo. The agreement is scheduled to be signed on 4 May.

In an another development, Israeli diplomatic sources close to the intensive negotiations that were held in Cairo today have told MENA that the economic agreement between the PLO and Israel will be signed tomorrow, Friday, in Paris. The same sources pointed out that the signing will take place after all obstacles have been overcome. The agreement will be an integral part of the agreement for the implementation of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

Sha'th Says Israel Agrees To Release Prisoners

NC2904062394 Paris AFP in English 0050 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, April 29 (AFP)—Israeli and PLO negotiators have reached agreement in principle on the release of all Palestinian prisoners held by Israel who commit themselves to renouncing violence, a senior PLO official disclosed Thursday.

The two sides agreed that in addition to 5,000 Palestinians whose release had already been approved, all remaining prisoners would be eligible for a pardon if they pledged "in writing" to abandon violence and to adhere to the policies of the PLO, Nabil Sha'th said.

The offer would apply to all Palestinian prisoners regardless of their political affiliation, according to Sha'th, who is the Palestine Liberation Organization's chief negotiator in talks here with Israel.

The negotiations are aimed at implementing limited Palestinian self-rule on the Gaza Strip and in the West Bank town of Jericho in accordance with a Declaration of Principles signed by the PLO and Israel in Washington last September.

After months of difficult and delicate talks, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin are to sign an accord here on May 4 to launch Palestinian autonomy, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak announced Thursday.

Sha'th said Israeli-PLO contacts would continue after next Wednesday's signing ceremony to determine a timetable for the prisoner releases. He said Palestinians in the autonomous areas would be issued a passport by Palestinian authorities that would be valid for three years and would entitle them to travel to any country accepting the document.

On the question of jurisdiction in Gaza and Jericho, which had plagued the Cairo talks earlier this month, Sha'th reported that the two sides had agreed that Palestinian officials would exert authority "in all domains, with the exception of Israeli citizens, Jewish settlements and external security."

He said the principal outstanding issue was the scope of the security zones to be established around the settlements on the Gaza Strip. The Palestinians want to reduce the dimensions of the zones to a minimum, according to Sha'th, who added that their proposed boundaries were detailed in maps appended to an agreement here on February 9. The maps have not been made public. Other sources close to the talks said the PLO and Israel still had to agree on the size of the autonomous Jericho area and the presence of a Palestinian guard on the Allenby Bridge between the West Bank and Jordan.

In Paris Thursday Israeli and Palestinian officials also reached an accord on future economic relations between Israel and the autonomous areas. In a statement released after five months of arduous talks, the Israeli delegation said "all the obstacles have been overcome and differences settled." "The heads of the delegations think it is possible to reach a general accord on Friday which will form the basis of economic relations between Israeli and Palestinian authorities," the statement said. Details of a final economic agreement were to be worked on overnight ahead of a 9:30 a.m. (0730 GMT) signing ceremony Friday at the French foreign ministry.

[Paris AFP in English at 0759 on 29 April in a Cairo-datelined item by Marius Schattner adds the following: "The two remaining points to be sorted out by Rabin and 'Arafat would be the size of the autonomous Jericho area and the presence of a Palestinian guard on the Allenby Bridge between the West Bank and Jordan, sources close to the talks said. But chief PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'th said Thursday the principal outstanding issue was the dimension of the security zones to be established around Jewish settlements on the Gaza Strip."]

Shohat, Quray' To Sign Economic Accord in Paris

TA2904060294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said that the economic agreement scheduled to be signed in Paris this morning constitutes a historic breakthrough toward establishing a prosperous peacetime economy. Shohat told Voice of Jerusalem radio that the agreement was good, protected Israel's economic interests, and also permitted the development of a Palestinian economy. Shohat noted that Israel had rejected the Palestinians' demand for their own currency; however, the economic committee accompanying the negotiations would continue to discuss the issue until a decision acceptable to both sides was reached.

Finance Minister Shohat and Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], the head of the PLO's economic department, will sign the agreement regulating economic relations between the Palestinian autonomous areas and Israel at a festive ceremony in Paris this morning. In the event of discrepancies between the Paris agreement and the agreement that will be signed next week in Cairo, the latter agreement will be considered binding by both parties.

Palestinians To Have 'Own Economy'

NC2904095594 Paris AFP in English 0856 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Paris, April 29 (AFP)—Israel and the PLO on Friday [29 April] signed an accord here setting out future Israeli-Palestinian economic relations under Palestinian self-rule. The accord was signed by Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Ahmad Quray', head of the Palestine Liberation Organizations's economic department. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe attended the signing ceremony.

In a statement, Juppe hailed "the courage and determination" of the two delegations which reached the accord after protracted negotiations which began here last November. In an eighth and final round of haggling Thursday, negotiators managed to agree on several contentious issues, notably customs tariffs.

"It's a good agreement which upholds Israel's economic interests and allows the Palestinians to develop their own economy," Shohat told Israeli radio in an interview from Paris before signing the accord. "It's a historic moment. Life depends on economic relations, investments, trade and improving living standards," he said.

The economic accord followed an announcement by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo on Thursday that Israel and the PLO would next Wednesday sign an overall agreement to launch Palestinian self-rule. The deal covers banking, finance, employment, customs duties, tourism, agriculture, industry, energy, and insurance. The Palestinians will be able to control the quantity of imports and tariffs imposed on them.

The PLO has foregone demands for an independent central bank but could create its own monetary authority to control and monitor the banking and financial sector.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Urges Yemenis To Resolve Differences

NC2804163694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—The Arab League Secretariat General expressed its deep concern over the military confrontation in Yemen which is threatening its unity, security, and stability and subjecting the constant Arab efforts to find a solution for the crisis to failure.

In a statement issued today, the Arab League appealed to all the Yemeni parties to exercise self-restraint, unite their ranks, resolve their differences through frankness and dialogue, and abide by what was agreed on in the Pledge and Agreement Document signed by the Yemeni brothers in the Jordanian capital, Amman, on 20 February 1994.

The statement stressed that Yemen's unity is a "national gain and a pan-Arab achievement" that should be protected in order to establish stability and security in Yemen in particular and the region in general.

It reiterated the need for all the Yemeni parties to protect the state of unity and overcome all the obstacles and difficulties that are impeding the attainment of national accord.

The statement declared the Arab League Secretariat General's readiness to mobilize all its resources in order to help remove the specter of civil war in fraternal Yemen.

Islamic Affairs

Velayati Urges Lifting of Bosnian Arms Embargo

LD2704203594 Tehran IRNA in English 1943 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] New York, April 27, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday called on Security Council to untie the hands of the Bosnian Muslim and let them exercise their right to defend themselves.

Addressing the meeting of Organization of Islamic Conference (ICO) contact group here, Velayati said that the latest cold-blooded massacre in Gorazde which has resulted in death of 700 and injury of more than 2,000 civilians is a vivid example of Serbian atrocities in Bosnia and the inaction and indifference of the international community towards these crimes against humanity.

"What is more disturbing is the fact that the Serbs continue to commit these crimes and violate Security Council resolutions particularly those related to the safe areas, with impunity, while the UN system is watching a gradual annihilation of one of its member states," said Velayati.

He underlined that the Islamic countries, from the beginning, have called for the lifting of the unjust arms embargo against the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Iranian foreign minister, elsewhere in his speeches argued that the Security Council is unable or unwilling to implement its own resolutions, and thus destroying its credibility and legitimacy. "Now the question is what is the justification for the continuation of arms embargo? Why do some permanent members of the Council look after their short-sighted political interests at the expense of a nation?" he asked.

Velayati emphasized that the contact group should continue its hard work to press the UN particularly the Security Council for lifting the arms embargo and in case the Security Council fails due to veto, we should intensify our efforts to invoke the a "uniting for peace" resolution and convene an urgent session of the United Nations General Assembly.

We should continue to intensify humanitarian relief efforts in Bosnia-Herzegovina by establishing an air fleet to various parts of it, Velayati said, adding that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly endorses the convening of an emergency ministerial meeting of the full membership of the ICO as soon as possible.

Ministers Issue Declaration

LD2804103194 Tehran IRNA in English 0907 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] United Nations, New York, April 28, IRNA—The foreign ministers of the contact group of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (ICO) [Islamic Conference Organization—ICO] on Bosnia-Herzegovina in a declaration here Wednesday [27 April] termed the arms embargo imposed on Sarajevo as illegal, unjust and in direct contradiction to Article 51 of the UN Charter.

The foreign ministers of the ICO contact group comprising Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Malaysia who held an emergency meeting here Wednesday to discuss the deteriorating situation arising from the Serbian unabated atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina, made the remark in their final declaration.

Stressing the implementation of the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on Bosnia-Herzegovina, the statement said that justice, humanity, morality and international law should not be ignored in settling the Bosnian plight.

The foreign ministers urged the international community, particularly ICO member states to extend their fullest cooperation to the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the exercise of its inherent and inalienable right of individual and collective self-defence under Article 51 of the U.N. Charter.

The contact group will table a draft resolution to be handed over to the Security Council to proclaim that the provisions of Security Council Resolution 713 did not apply to Bosnia-Herzegovina, the declaration said.

Expressing regret over the U.N. inability to preserve the inviolability of the "safe areas" designated by the Security Council, the declaration said that brutal Serbian atatcks on Gorazde once again proved the failure of all international efforts to deter and end the Serbian aggression.

The foreign ministers held "the Belgrade regime and its surrogate in Bosnia-Herzegovina" responsible for the cold blooded massacre in Gorazde of over 700 innocent civilians, the maiming of more than 2000 others and the forced displacement of more than 20,000 people.

Condemning the brutal Serbian offensive on Gorazde, they expressed support for the international war crime tribunal and called for the prosecution of those responsible for organizing and perpetrating the atrocities.

The foreign ministers welcomed the decision of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for extending the "Sarajevo exclusion zone model" to other U.N. declared "safe areas" in Bosnia-Herzegovina and stressed the necessity of employing massive air-power, in accordance with Security Council resolutions to deter and interdict Serbian military supply lines.

Stressing the full and complete withdrawal of Serbian heavy weapons from Gorazde, as specified in NATO ultimatum of April 22, they called for the removal of all heavy weapons in the possession of Bosnian Serbs to Serbia-Montenegro as called for in the Security Council Resolution 752.

Stressing the necessity for strengthening of UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the declaration urged the U.N. to avail itself of the proposal made by several Islamic countries for contributing troops to the UNPROFOR.

Expressing support for the convening of an international peace conference on former Yugoslavia, they emphasized that such a conference has to be formally based on the purposes and principles of U.N. Charter and consistent with the provisions of relevant Security Council resolutions.

However, they stressed that such a conference should not be utilized by the Serbs as a cover to execute or legitimize their war objectives and annexationist designs.

The declaration stressed that the Serb withdrawal from Gorazde and the establishment of "exclusion zone" must precede the holding of the conference and the member states of the ICO contact group should be invited to attend the conference as participants as well as any other peace initiative on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The declaration welcomed the Washington agremeent between the Muslims and Croats and the confederal arrangements with the Republic of Croatia and said that it considers the initiative as an important step towards an overall political settlement of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

It called for tightening of the existing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) until they comply with the Security Council resolutions and establishment of a comprehensive peace settlement.

The declaration called on international community to intensify humanitarian relief efforts in Bosnia-Herzegovina and called for urgent steps to reopen the Tuzla airport on regular basis.

Calling for the establishment of an ICO trust fund for the reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina, it urged member states to contribute generously to this fund.

The declaration touched on the situation of Muslims in Sanjak and Kosovo and called on the international community to provide them with effective international protection.

The foreign ministers reaffirmed their decision to continue to review their economic relations with those governments, which continue to impede the achievement of just settlement by acts and policies aimed at rewarding the aggressor and legitimizing the fruits of aggression and decide to evolve a joint ICO position on this important question as soon as possible.

The declaration stressed the necessity to peserve the unity and indivisibility of Sarajevo as the capital of the Republic of Bosnia- Herzegovina and called on the United Nations to review the mandate of the UNPROFOR.

It also supported Algerian Government's proposal on holding an emergency ministerial meeting of the full membership of the ICO.

Removal of UN's Akashi Urged

BK2804134194 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has said imposition of arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina is a clear violation of Article 51 of the UN Charter. He was addressing a news conference, along with other foreign ministers of ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] Contact Group on Bosnia at the United Nations. He said according to the interpretation of the ICO, the Security Council by imposing the embargo had in fact amended the UN Charter, which was something beyond its own mandate.

The foreign minister said the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina held the special UN representative, Mr. Akashi, responsible for the deaths in Gorazde by acting to stop the air strikes against the Serb aggressors. He said the ICO members support this view and favor the removal of Mr. Akashi from his position. He said there are many other countries, besides the ICO members, who are also demanding his removal.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said during their meeting with the UN secretary general, the ICO foreign ministers raised the question that if there was no peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina, then what exactly the UN forces were keeping there. [sentence as heard] The peacekeeping forces must have a clear defined role of enforcing peace, he added.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Blames Israel for 'Procrastination'

AU2804152694 Bucharest CURIERUL NATIONAL in Romanian 26 Apr 94 p 2

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Marius Petrean in Bucharest; date not given: "Where Is the Peace We Have Been Talking About for the Past Seven Months?"]

[Text] [Petrean] More than seven months have passed since the "historic shaking of hands" in Washington. Are you disappointed with the way in which the peace process is evolving?

['Arafat] Indeed, more than nine months have passed since the meetings in Oslo and eight months since the signing of the agreement in Washington, but I regret to have to say that nothing has been accomplished so far.

[Petrean] How do you explain the delays in the initially envisaged calender of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations?

['Arafat] The reason for this is the policy of procrastination and delay used by the Israeli Government, something that jeopardizes the peace process and places it in a dangerous situation. The Palestinian side has proven flexibility and full responsibility by trying to reach a so-called "peace of the brave men," despite the tough Israeli practices in the field and the continuation of the Israeli policy of killing and arresting Palestinian citizens, imposing traffic restrictions, and maintaining a military encirclement and economic isolation, something that makes the life of our citizens in the occupied territories very difficult and does not contribute in the least to the establishment of a favorable atmosphere for making further progress along the road of peace.

The massacre at Ibrahim's Mosque in Hebron is a telling example of the Israeli policy of colonialization and the Israeli Government's responsibility for having brought these colonists there and for having trained, armed, protected, and encouraged them to set up colonies in the towns and inhabited areas of the occupied territories. It is also a telling example of the procrastinating and eschewing policy practiced by the Israeli Government in the implementation of the accord and declaration of principles signed in Washington last September.

[Petrean] The attacks and acts of violence continue uninterrupted, particularly in the occupied territories. Do you believe that the Israeli-Palestinian "rejection front" is on the point of reaching its goal? How broad is, in your opinion, the current opposition against the peace process?

['Arafat] One must realize that the delay in the implementation of the peace process will increase the number of people in both camps who oppose this process. The general feeling, which is increasingly growing day by day, particularly among the Palestinians, is that the peace process is futile and that it has failed because of the stubbornness and shunning of the Israeli side. This feeling not only represents the personal stand of several individuals, but is a pervading feeling justified by the growing distrust in this peace process and its usefulness. I have repeatedly warned that the delay in the implementation of the peace process and in the achievement of palpable results may turn the peace process against itself and put it in a dangerous situation! Well, the present is just proving this point, which cannot be ignored, since the acts of violence are on the increase on both sides and the hopes that the Israeli Government will favorably respond to the so-called "peace of the brave men" offered by the PLO—and successively endorsed by the Palestinian National Council (parliament) in its sessions—are getting dashed. The Palestinian people are fully engaged in the peace process and want peace. But

more than that, the Palestinian people want to live in peace and do not want mere empty words uttered in a handsome way or brilliant festivities and promises that are invalidated by the official Israeli practice and by the actions carried out by the Israeli colonists in the occupied territories. Now, I would also like to ask a few questions. Where is the peace we have been talking about for the past seven months? Where is the peace, when the Israeli occupation against our people's freedom continues? Where is the peace... when the Israeli prisons are full of Palestinian citizens? Where is the peace... when the killing, wounding, and humiliation of Palestinian citizens keep repeating themselves day by day? Where is the peace... when the economic, commercial, and financial isolation is practiced as a constant policy? Where is the peace... when armed extremist colonists are doing what they want in Palestinian towns and villages, without having to answer to any laws? What shall I tell my people? Shall I tell them that the peace process is useless, since the Israelis are not serious and the cochairmen of the peace process are making no effort to implement the provisions of the peace accord? Shall I tell them that the other international forces and the international community are also doing nothing in this respect?

[Petrean] Is the PLO ready to ensure the rule of law and order in Gaza and Jericho after the Israeli withdrawal? What kind of social regime does the future Palestinian self-governing authority plan to establish? Is democracy desired and possible?

['Arafat] Palestinian democracy is no illusion or figment of the people's imagination but a reality of the Palestinian people within the PLO, a reality with a long-standing tradition. Thanks to their originality, keen awareness, and feeling of full responsibility, the Palestinian people have managed to preserve and are still preserving this democracy, even during the Palestinian revolution (known as the "Democracy of the Forest of Guns"). Therefore, any future of the Palestinian people in a new state of their own depends on the total and full application of democracy and on its conscious and responsible practice, since democracy is the citadel that protects the Palestinian people's achievements. It is the citadel that preserves the order and supervises the unity of the people and their parties and institutions operating inside and outside the Palestinian territories. All draft laws and the temporary Constitution confirms, supports, and promotes this reality.

[Petrean] The PLO has estimated that at least $13 billion is needed in the next 10 years to promote economic reconstruction and meet basic social requirements. What are the financing possibilities available to you? What overall economic strategy do you envisage?

['Arafat] I would like to emphasize the huge burden of responsibility on the shoulders of the Palestinian National authority for the future reconstruction of the occupied territories, since we are obliged to start from zero and even from below zero. The long years of the Israeli occupation have brought the Palestinian territories, society, institutions, governmental bodies, and national councils into a disastrous state, something that has hurt the entire infrastructure; consequently, we will have to rebuild this infrastructure basis in its entirety.

Therefore, the PLO and the Palestinian National Authority—fully aware of their huge responsibility in this respect—are doing everything possible to implement their economic program in the financial and production sectors, so as to begin Palestine's reconstruction as soon as possible. As you know, this requires ensuring the necessary financial means for implementing these projects and plans. We are now in the process of establishing contacts with the relevant international financial institutions and with the funds of the credit countries, which can grant assistance and the necessary financial means. However, this is a very difficult and slow process, which does not meet the immediate requirements of beginning the reconstruction work.

[Petrean] Do you believe that Romania, which has always had very good relations with the PLO, can participate in the Palestinian reconstruction? What role can be played by Romanian businessmen?

['Arafat] We believe that a large part of the development projects in Palestine should be done through bilateral cooperation with friendly countries, countries that want to help the Palestinian people and participate alongside them in the development of Palestine. As you have said, Romanian-Palestinian relations, at both the official or popular level, have always been warm and sincere. We believe that the friendship between the two peoples provides for a favorable basis for increasing bilateral economic cooperation, and we hope that Romania will play an important role, both at the governmental and private sector levels, in the reconstruction of the Palestinian infrastructure. We welcome this role.

[Petrean] Looking slightly ahead, how do you think the problem of the Jewish settlements in the occupied territories should be solved? What about Jerusalem?

['Arafat] The problem of the colonies and Jerusalem should be discussed as soon as possible after the implementation of the agreements on Gaza and Jericho, within a period that should not exceed the beginning of the third year after the implementation of this accord. Let us not forget that these colonies are not legal from a juridic point of view; nor are they legal from an international viewpoint, particularly in view of the UN decisions of the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told me not long ago that he intends to liquidate the colonies.

Regarding the holy Arab Jerusalem, it is subject to Decision 242 of the UN Security Council regarding the Arab and Palestinian territories occupied after 1967. The problem of Jerusalem is also covered by Decision 904 of the UN Security Council, which considers Jerusalem as part of the territories occupied at the respective time (1967).

Likewise, the Israeli United Workers Party sees the possibility of creating two capitals in Jerusalem for the two states, and we support this idea.

'Arafat on Prisoners, Israeli Negotiating Policy

TA2804142994 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Apr 94 pp 1, 19

[Report on interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Barghuthi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has stressed that he will not feel at ease until all Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails obtain their freedom so that they may participate in the battle for building the Palestinian national authority and an independent state. 'Arafat rejected any attempt to categorize or divide the prisoners and insisted that all of them be treated equally.

'Arafat emphasized the need to close ranks and achieve national unity. He called on everyone to behave as one man and one heart, to think with responsibility, and to confront the immense challenges we are facing with all methods available. This, at a time when the Palestinians are knocking on the doors of independence and freedom under the PLO's leadership and the international community is looking forward to seeing the embodiment of Palestinian rights in a way that would end the suffering of our people and nation and provide them with the opportunity to build the life for which they have always dreamed. 'Arafat said that the Palestinian people have the right to live in security, dignity, stability, and prosperity.

'Arafat criticized the foot-dragging and procrastination inherent in Israeli policy on implementing the Palestinian-Israeli accord signed on 13 September in Washington. He described this policy as a rejected blackmail attempt that will only lead to wasting more time and deprive the peace process of credibility.

'Arafat held the Israeli Government responsible for this delay and the ensuing continuation of the cycle of violence in the occupied territories. He expressed the hope that Israel will stop procrastinating and will respond to realities and the requirements of the era on the dissemination of the climate of peace and stability among states and peoples. This requires that every people be guaranteed the right to self-determination and the establishment of its independent political entity over the soil of its homeland in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations and the resolutions of its institutions issued in this regard.

In this context, 'Arafat stressed the PLO's adherence to the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and said: The day of return is near and the attainment of our people's dream is not impossible but possible. We must achieve that dream regardless of how difficult the march may be and irrespective of the obstacles it faces.

PLO 'Discussing National Authority'; Hurani Returns

PM2804114294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Apr 94 p 5

[Report by Rashid Khashanah: "Hurani Returns to the PLO Executive Committee; Palestinian Leadership Discussing National Authority Structure"]

[Excerpts] Tunis—Informed Palestinian sources in Tunis have told AL-HAYAH that the PLO leadership is currently discussing the structure of the Palestinian national authority to agree on a final formula before submitting it to the Israelis. They added that the discussions have so far resulted in agreement to have figures from inside the occupied territory and figures from the diaspora equally represented in the authority body. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, informed Palestinian sources have stated that 'Abdallah Hurani, who had resigned from the PLO Executive Committee, has had a reconciliation with President Yasir 'Arafat. Their reconciliation resulted in his appointment as head of the "Returnees Department" formerly headed by 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, the representatiave of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] in the Executive Committee (who had also resigned).

Hurani, who, along with five other Executive Committee members, resigned after the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles was signed on 13 September 1993, was previously head of the PLO's Cultural Department.

AL-HAYAH has learned that Malluh visited Tunis at the end of last week for the first time since resigning from the Executive Committee last September. He met with some prominent Fatah leaders and also probably met with President 'Arafat. This is considered to be the first meeting between the the PFLP and Fatah since the Declaration of Principles was signed.

Self-Rule Authority Formed, Headed By 'Arafat

TA2804144694 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Apr 94 p 2

[Text] Cairo, QUDS PRESS—Informed Palestinian sources have said that the PLO leadership recently completed the formation of the national authority that will manage the self-government's affairs in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

According to the Palestinian sources, who are close to the Cairo talks, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will personally head this authority, which will be announced at a later date.

The sources, who wished to remain anonymous, linked the announcement on the formation of this authority to the achievement of fundamental progress that ensures

the Palestinians the beginning of the implementation of the Declaration of Principles.

The Palestinian sources told QUDS PRESS that "Israel's procrastination and its non-adherence to dates on which agreement had been reached forced the Palestinian leadership to postpone the announcement on the national authority's formation."

The Palestinian sources refused to provide details on the formation of this body but said that it will comprise 18 members, 11 from the diaspora and seven from the occupied territories. The distribution of the authority's diaspora members will be as follows: Seven from the PLO Executive Committee, two from the Fatah Central Committee, and two independents.

The Israeli Government had called on the Palestinian leadership to announce the self-rule authority, but the PLO rejected this demand as premature. The Palestinian sources expressed the belief that the announcement on the formation of the authority might provoke internal conflicts, especially as there is no Palestinian authority inside the occupied territories to impose the law.

'Urayqat on Self-Rule Council Elections

TA2804173694 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 27 Apr 94 p 7

[By Muhammad Abu-Khudayr and Zaki Abu-al-Halawah]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem—Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks in Washington and head of the elections committee, has stressed that it is not possible to hold elections for the Palestinian national authority before total agreement is reached on the interim stage.

In an exclusive interview with AL-QUDS, 'Urayqat ruled out the possibility of holding elections for the coming authority before the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho and their redeployment in the rest of the occupied territories and before the Israeli Civil Administration is dissolved.

'Urayqat disclosed that the date for these elections has been set for 15 October instead of July. He added: Any snag in the talks will lead to further delay. [passage omitted]

'Urayqat noted that the elections will be conducted under the patronage of the United Nations and the participation of the European Community, the Scandinavian countries, Japan, Canada, the United States, Russia, Egypt, and Jordan.

On the cost of these elections, 'Urayqat said: We cannot itemize the expenses, but we are talking about training and equipment that might cost more than $44 million.

'Urayqat affirmed that during the talks, the Palestinian side proposed that the elected council comprise 100 members and insisted on this, because that is an internal Palestinian matter and no one has the right to object to it. [passage omitted]

'Urayqat emphasized that there were no lists of Palestinian voters and that it was impossible to hold a census before two years. He said: Therefore, we have officially asked Israel to hand us the population lists of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. Israel has agreed, in principle, to do so.

'Urayqat added: After receiving the lists, we will verify them. Then election cards will be distributed to everyone in his own district, including the residents of East Jerusalem who will participate in the elections both as voters and candidates like other residents of the occupied territories.

As for the diaspora Palestinians, 'Urayqat said that the Oslo accord stipulates that the displaced persons listed in the 1967 census cannot participate in the elections for practical reasons which will not deprive them of their future status.

In conclusion, 'Urayqat said that the 100 members elected to the self-rule council will automatically become members of the Palestine National Council.

'Arafat Asks Negotiators To Open 'Martyrs' Files

JN2604093894 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has asked Palestinian negotiators to open the file of the Palestinian martyrs who fell during confrontations with the Israeli occupation troops during the period of armed fedayeen action that was launched from Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese territories, in addition to the occupied territories.

Palestinian sources said that the Israeli authorities have been holding the bodies of more than 100 martyrs in morgues for over two decades, and that they refuse to hand them to their families. The sources explained that this request was passed on during the meetings that were held in Tunis over the past two days.

'Arafat Receives Letter From UK's Major

LD2804195194 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received a letter from British Prime Minister John Major, in response to a letter from 'Arafat on the obstacles preventing the implementation of the PLO-Israeli agreement and the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

In his letter, Mr. Major stressed that the United Kingdom would continue to give its full support for the

peace process. He said: We and our partners within the European Union are prepared use our means to help politically and financially.

Syrian Officials Refuse To See 'Arafat's Envoy

TA2604150594 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 26 Apr 94 p 9

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources have said that Damascus refused to receive Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's envoy, whom he dispatched last week in an attempt to improve Syria's relationship with the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

'Arafat's envoy, who is a member of the PLO Executive Committee and who arrived unexpectedly in Damascus, returned without achieving anything because of the Syrian officials' refusal to receive him.

It has been learned that 'Arafat's envoy met Khalid al-Fahum, head of the Salvation Front, but nothing has been reported about what transpired at this meeting.

The PLO Executive Committee member who visited Damascus has reportedly said that he did not have a mission of reconciliation between the Syrian president and 'Arafat but that he traveled there "to perform a social duty."

'Abbas Expects Links With Jordan

PM2604120094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Abu-Mazin Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Peace Negotiations Will Produce Independent Entity Linked With Jordan"]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) expects developments in the peace process to crystallize into a form of an independent Palestinian entity linked with Jordan.

Abu-Mazin believes it is necessary to link Palestine with Jordan, even if full Palestinian independence is obtained because Jordan represents a basic and natural extension to Palestine.

He said: If a confederation is agreed with Jordan, it must be conducted in accordance with the free will of the two sides, and the confederation should be the outcome of the negotiations.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT during his visit to Abu Dhabi, Abu-Mazin said that it has not yet been agreed to hold a meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. He said it is likely that a meeting will be held directly between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and 'Arafat if the Cairo negotiations end this week. Abu-Mazin expects the final agreement to be signed next month.

He refused to give a specific date for the signing. He said: We do not want people to get frustrated if matters are delayed at the last moment.

Abu-Mazin described Rabin's statements on the settlements as very encouraging. He said that these statements represent a change in Rabin's view of the settlements, which began by differentiating between security and political settlement.

In Amman, in reply to a question put to him by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali strongly denied that Crown Prince Hasan's call the day before yesterday for easing the administrative measures experienced by the people of the West Bank residing in Jordan carry any political dimensions. Dr. al-Majali said: "There is no political dimension for the measures. It is an administrative matter."

Fatah Invites Factions to National Dialogue

TA2604150794 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 24 Apr 94 pp 1, 7

[By 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Arna'ut]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—AL-NAHAR has learned that an internal dialogue among Palestinian factions that support and oppose the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is currently taking place inside and outside the occupied territories. The aim of this dialogue is to reach a draft joint agreement on unity in view of the conditions that will prevail in the occupied territories during the coming stage.

Fatah has invited all Palestinian political and militant forces to a comprehensive national dialogue. The invitation, extended by Ahmad Ghunaym, head of Fatah's office in Jerusalem, during a commemorative ceremony for martyr Khalil al-Wazir, said: We invite our brothers in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the People's Party, FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Union], and all our national movements to a comprehensive dialogue in order to affirm that this homeland does not belong to one organization but to the entire people. [passage omitted]

Differences in Fatah Over Self-Rule

TA2604152494 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 25 Apr 94 pp 1, 7

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Tunis—President Yasir 'Arafat announced that 6,000 Palestinian policemen, accompanied by their families, in addition to 100 body guards will enter Gaza and Jericho within the coming three weeks. President 'Arafat, who was speaking at a Fatah Central Committee meeting in Tunis, said that in the first stage 25,000 Palestinians will arrive in the self-rule area.

The Fatah Central Committee meetings witnessed heated debates and arguments between Hani al-Hasan on one hand, and Ahmad Quray' and Hakam Bal'awi on the other. Leaked information indicates that Ahmad Quray', head of the PLO Economic Department and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Paris economic talks with Israel, threatened that he will not go to Paris in protest of Hani al-Hasan's objections to and observations on the economic talks.

Differences within the Fatah Central Committee extended to Sakhr Habash, Muhammad Ghunaym, Major General Muhammad Jihad, and 'Abbas Zaki when they expressed their dissatisfaction over the current situation, especially following the Cairo accord.

According to Palestinian sources close to the Fatah Central Committee, the situation inside the committee became more aggravated after Muhammad Ghunaym, who is responsible for mobilization and organization in Fatah, submitted his resignation protesting the decisions about the higher national authority.

For his part, Ghunaym stressed that he did not submit his resignation nor was there any mediation for rescinding his resignation because it did not happen in the first place.

Ghunaym said that this session of the Fatah Central Committee meetings is devoted to drawing up the blueprint of the coming stage in Gaza and Jericho. He added that each committee member has his own views about this subject and that there were differences between some viewpoints. He explained that the Central Committee has not drawn up the final blueprint yet.

Other sources in the Central Committee emphasized that President 'Arafat expressed his anger at the visit by Mahmud 'Abbas to the United Arab Emirates, stressing that 'Abbas went there without a decision by the leadership. Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, backed 'Arafat on this issue.

The sources said that some Fatah Central Committee members, including Hani al-Hasan, voiced strong criticism at Nabil Sha'th's negotiating performance. They said that 'Arafat proposed to Hani al-Hasan to manage the negotiations with Sha'th. Al-Hasan told 'Arafat that in the past he had called for reassessing the negotiating reference point and adopting a policy of playing off the political blocs and persevering. Al-Hasan continued: What I said about the multilateral talks has proven to be true, but unfortunately it was ignored by the Palestinian leadership.

The Fatah Central Committee meetings will continue until the final perception of the Palestinian self-rule authority is drawn up.

It has been learned that President 'Arafat is disappointed with the Israeli position, which has engrossed the PLO in details while failing to broach the extent of the self-rule authority's powers.

Fatah Deportees Return Via Allenby Bridge

TA2704170994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Eleven Palestinian deportees returned home via the Allenby Bridge from Jordan this afternoon. They are all members of the PLO's Fatah and were accompanied by 46 family members. Since the Israel-PLO peace accord signed in September, some 90 deportees have been allowed to return.

Factions Split on Response to Hamas Initiative

PM2604160094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Apr 94 p 5

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Hamas' Partners Support, Oppose, or Wait for Clarifications"]

[Text] Damascus—The nine Palestinian factions which, along with the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), form the Palestinian Forces Alliance [PFA] opposed to the Oslo agreement, are divided into two groups in their reaction to Hamas' declared willingness to "call a truce" with Israel on certain conditions including withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Their different positions on the Hamas initiative, however, do not negate the fact that all the factions are "very reproachful" because they were not consulted before that "sensitive" position was taken, although some factions have declined to comment, awaiting "clarifications from Hamas leaders" who will meet with the leaders of the other factions next week. The meeting of the "central command" of the alliance of opposition forces, scheduled to be held on 19 April, was postponed "but that was because Hamas' leaders were unable to make the journey from Amman in view of the circumstances they were experiencing," according to Palestinian sources.

The sources told AL-HAYAH that Hamas is targeted by everyone because of its position and the fact that it is the only party operating effectively and aggressively in the territories.

Two trends have emerged within the Palestinian factions opposed to the Oslo agreement regarding the Hamas "truce." They are basically based on the various factions' positions, nature, and views on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the extent of their willingness to accept phased solutions for that conflict. The factions which support the "Palestinian national program" (the 1974 phased program) have supported Hamas' new position and see it as "a positive development in the political thinking." They include the four factions which are PLO members, namely the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] led by George Habash, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] led by Nayif Hawatimah, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] led by Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid, and the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] led by Abu-Nidal al-Ashqar (Yusuf al-Miqdah).

Those opposed to the new Hamas stance are the factions opposed to phased solutions such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] led by Ahmad Jibril, the Arab Liberation Front (Fatah-the Uprising) led by Colonel Abu-Musa, and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement led by Fathi al-Shaqaqi.

All the factions, however, are unanimous in their "rebuke" for the Hamas leaders for not contacting them before taking that position. DFLP sources said "we would have liked to discuss the matter within the alliance so that we could announce a unified position by the alliance." The DFLP sources told AL-HAYAH that its representative in the alliance Qays al-Samarra'i (Abu-Layla) had suggested to them "in the early consultations before the announcement of the alliance that we would be prepared to adopt the points made regarding the questions of full Israeli withdrawal and the right of self-determination in return for a truce" with the Israelis. They added "Hamas should have discussed the matter within the alliance's central command."

DFLP sources stressed that there were "positive points in the main position announced by Hamas in an official statement because it marked the start of a realistic approach to the current developments and introduced a tangible crystallized alternative to the Oslo-Cairo agreements," but the same sources added that the Hamas initiative included three loopholes "of serious political implications." One, they said, was that Hamas appeared to be confining its handling of the Palestinian question to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, including its call for a new leadership from the people of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. That is a serious matter, they added, because it ignores the unity of the Palestinians at home and abroad.

The second loophole, according to these sources, is that Hamas ignored "the right of self-determination and just talked about Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank."

They also pointed out that Hamas "also ignored the refugee problem which is one of the main causes of the Palestinian people. That was the third dangerous point in the position of the brothers in Hamas."

The sources reaffirmed the DFLP's rejection of the fact that Hamas was treating the Palestinian question "as if it was a question of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, something we do not accept at all."

Fatah's Zaki Praises Agreement

TA2604184694 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 24 Apr 94 p 2

[By 'Izzat Daraghmah]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—In the first Palestinian reaction to the agreement between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Fatah Central Committee member 'Abbas Zaki said that this agreement affirms the futility of betting on Palestinian division and weakness. The agreement will lead to a unified and good performance that will enable us to look forward to a good future. Moreover, it will constitute the groundwork for expanding the circle of dialogue and finalizing formulas for Palestinian unity.

In an exclusive statement, Zaki added: This is the first time in history that the Palestinians have embarked on establishing an entity. That requires priority in caring for, protecting, and defending this entity.

Zaki stressed: In order to avoid what happened in other revolutions that ended painfully with the outbreak of civil wars, we will not allow those models to be repeated in Palestine. Therefore, we have continued and will continue the dialogue with all Islamic and national Palestinian forces and factions in a bid to avoid the specter of a civil war and infighting. [passage omitted]

FIDA Welcomes Fatah-Hamas Accord

TA2604184794 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 24 Apr 94 p 2

[Text] Gaza—The repatriated deportee Jamal Zaqqut, member of the executive bureau of FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Union], said yesterday that the agreement between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Fatah in the Gaza Strip is a step in the right direction and that FIDA welcomes this step, because it has come at a time when everyone is sensing the great significance of enhancing national unity and when meetings are being held among various national and Islamic forces.

Zaqqut called on all forces to consolidate dialogue and harmony in order to confront the tasks of the coming stage. He said that the inception of a national and Islamic authority in the Gaza Strip, on the basis of plurality and mutual respect of opinions, will lead to the establishment of a democratic foundation based on popular participation.

Editorial Calls Fatah-Hamas Agreement 'Positive'

TA2604195794 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 25 Apr 94 p 11

[Editorial: "Dialogue Amid a New Reality"]

[Text] The satisfaction and welcome expressed by the Palestinian people's sons, both inside and outside the occupied territories, for the recent agreement between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Fatah and for the launching of an expanded dialogue between various Palestinian national forces aimed at safeguarding the Palestinian supreme national interests affirm that this positive development constitutes, among other things, a response to the Palestinian street's desire to see that unity has been restored and democracy consolidated in the Palestinian arena. This, despite the different positions and views in the occupied territories on the interim stage agreement.

The timing of the agreement and dialogue confirm the depth of the realization by the various Palestinian national forces, whether those supporting or opposing the Oslo accord, that a new stage has begun in the life of our Palestinian people and that we are standing on the threshold of a new reality, which makes it incumbent on all to shoulder their national and historic responsibility. This, at a time when the occupied territories' sons are getting ready to set up the first Palestinian self-governing authority and hoping that this development will be a prelude to ending the occupation and building an independent Palestinian state.

From this premise, the comprehensive national dialogue derives immense significance. This dialogue, which relies on a firm basis of crucial common denominators linking the sons of one people, and which is based on democratic traditions reinforced by long years of struggle, should lead to the enhancement of Palestinian unity and spare it the dangers of fragmentation and infighting in the coming new stage. This stage requires every Palestinian effort to be directed toward construction. It also requires moving the new reality toward consolidating the Palestinian national authority and translating Palestinian aspirations for freedom and independence into tangible and responsible steps leading to the realization of this goal.

At a time when the Palestinians in general, and the occupied territories' sons in particular, expect the current dialogue to produce positive results that remove from the Palestinian arena the elements of weakness and enhance unity in confronting the new reality, we hope that the various Palestinian national forces will translate the slogans of unity and democracy into steps that strengthen those that have already been taken. Moreover, we hope that the pace of this translation will not only be in harmony with our approach to the new reality, but will approach this reality with a firm Palestinian body, able to confront the various developments and capable of waging the battle of construction with the same resolve that it showed in its long march toward freedom and independence.

Khamis Splits From PFLP-GC; Jibril Aide 'Surprised'

LD2804160094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Apr 94 94 p 5

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Khamis Confirms Split From 'General Command'"]

[Excerpt] Damascus, Amman, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Mustafa Khamis, a Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC] leader, has confirmed his split from the Front and the formation of a new command under his leadership called the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—Islamic General Command.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in his residence in Amman yesterday Khamis said that he has taken this step in protest at the attitude of the Front's leadership, saying that he had, on several occasions, asked the Front's Central Committee to form a special committee to investigate the accusations leveled at him by some officials in order to judge them and expel them from its ranks. But his requests fell on deaf ears and, as a result, some Central Committee members conspired against him and hence dismissed him as official in charge of the General Command on the Jordanian scene and action in the western sector of the occupied territories.

However, circles of the PFLP-GC led by Ahmad Jibril were surprised by these reports when AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT went to ask them about the causes that led to the split.

General Command officials expressed their astonishment at and rejection of the idea. An employee in Jibril's office told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that it is a personal action, and the Palestinian issue does not need further splits and fragmentation. Such actions harm Palestinian struggle, which he is working to unify in order to confront the Israeli enemy, his practices, and his agreement with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

Quray' Threatens To Abandon Paris Economic Talks

JN2804134394 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 27 Apr 94 p 1

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] There were strong verbal exchanges among senior PLO officials during last week's Fatah Movement meeting in Tunis. Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat chaired the meeting.

AL-BILAD learned that Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', head of the PLO Economic Department and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Paris economic talks with Israel, lost his temper after a flare up over differences with Fatah Central Committee member Hani al- Hasan, who protested against Abu-'Ala's hasty verbal presentation of a report during the meeting. After al-Hasan's protest, Quray' openly threatened to not go back to Paris. He tore up the file of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, an indication that he is abandoning his pursuit of this issue.

An argument immediately erupted between Fatah Central Committee members Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, and Hakam Bal'awi. According to AL-BILAD's information, during the heated discussion, Hani al-Hasan said the head of the Israeli delegation briefed the Israelis in a televised seminar about the proceedings of the Paris negotiations, explaining the economic and political gains the Israeli side has achieved, especially on the subject of Palestinian currency, part of which will be kept in the Israeli Central Bank's reserves.

Al-Hasan said: This is a very serious issue that cannot be discussed in this way. All the provisions of the economic agreement should be laid down on the table and distributed so the members of Fatah Central Committee can closely examine them.

The sources said another strong verbal exchange occurred during the meeting when al-Hasan said the pro-Labor Party group within the Palestinian revolution leadership had implicated President 'Arafat in affairs in which the Fatah Movement should not have been involved.

According to AL-BILAD sources, Fatah is expected to hold another meeting when 'Arafat concludes his current tours.

Algeria

Prime Minister Sifi Meets With Local Officials

LD2804155494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] This morning the head of government, Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, met with the representatives of four pilot municipalities in his office. The representatives were chosen from the Governorates of Algiers, Batna, Sidi Bel Abbes, and Illizi.

The meeting was the first of its kind. It was attended by the minister of interior and localities as well as by a number of governors. The meeting is an opportunity to come closer to the real problems facing municipalities.

Also, this meeting would be an opportunity to put the last touches on his government's program, due to be announced in the next few days, by drawing on the citizen's concerns and problems in deprived municipalities.

According to information reaching us from the government palace, the government was going to allow the citizens to participate tangibly in the management of the local affairs through the newly formed 10,000 district committees, which have been set up throughout the country over the past few months.

Sifi Comments on IMF Agreement

LD2804173194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Excerpts] The information and study workshop on the prospects of the Algerian economy, organized by the presidency and the government and attended by government members and main social and economic operators, has been crowned by a recommendation underlining the need for a comprehensive and coherent program of institutional restructuring and reforms in order to free the initiatives of the economic operators and to reintroduce the market economy mechanism. [passage omitted]

The days proceedings of the information and study workshop was also characterized by the intervention of Mr. Mokdad Sifi, the head of government, with an address during the opening meeting in which he touched, in particular, on the consequences of the agreement our country had recently concluded with the IMF, which aims to insure the highest possible level of stability in the national economy and create the objective conditions to resume a continuous growth that will insure the alleviation and gradual elimination of all forms of imbalances and serious pressures at times that burden our society at the present.

The head of government pointed out in his intervention that resorting to rescheduling the debts of our country has come at a time when Algeria has become unable to face the maturity dates of its debts on the one hand, and to respond to the basic needs of its citizens and economy, on the other. This reflects the inevitable nature of the debt rescheduling effort. Here the head of government said:

[Begin Safi recording] This effort was impossible to avoid, especially when Algeria had to import the high-cost staple foodstuffs, which cannot be reduced, with hard currency that constitute a heavy burden on the foreign currency accounts of the country.

I would like to point out in this instance, so that we comprehend the dimensions of the country's financial difficulties, that we are obliged to face up to annual expenditures estimated at least to be three billion dollars in respect of the widely-consumed stuff only. And if we talk about the details, in respect of cereals, including hard wheat, soft wheat, and semolina and flour, Algeria consumes more than 3 million tonnes annually, namely to the value of 780 million dollars. Thus, Algeria alone consumes about 40 percent of the world exports.

Regarding milk, Algeria consumes 400,000 tonnes worth 560 million dollars. Algeria consumes 400,000 tonnes of oils worth 200 million dollars. Algeria also consumes 950,000 tonnes of sugar worth 320 million dollars, and 120,000 tonnes of coffee worth 160 million dollars. Regarding medicines, it consumes a quantity worth 500 million dollars. Of the total value of only these commodities I have mentioned, Algeria is committed to spend an amount estimated at 2.5 billion dollars annually. In addition to that, the costs of imports of this type of commodity in the current circumstances is very high. [end recording]

Washington Talks on Economic Reform Continue

LD2704160994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] The reform plan based on the liberal system that the Algerian Government has approved after its agreement with the IMF has received extensive attention in different international financial circles.

In light of this agreement, the Algerian Government economic delegation led by Mr. Mourad Benachnou, the minister of industrial restructuring and participation, is continuing its talks in Washington with officials in the IMF and the World Bank who are meeting within the framework of their annual joint session.

The Algerian delegation's talks with the two international bodies are focusing on the technical aspects of the Algerian Government's reform plan.

An Algerian source in the U.S. capital explained that the greater part of the discussions between the two sides is centered on the release [tasrih] of the second part related to banking systems in Algeria that comprises 14 plans on budget correction.

It has become clear from these talks that the World Bank is prepared to grant Algeria a 200 million dollar loan to be invested in the field of water in Algeria. Official

circles in both the IMF and the World Bank have told our delegation that they support the government reform plan. The same circles said they considered this plan to be an important step on the way to establishing Algeria's economy on sound foundations.

The same source says that preparations are being made for a new plan related to the development of the housing sector, adding that Mr. Mourad Benachnou's talks with World Bank officials was fruitful. The talks also covered how to deal with the problems of unemployment by relying on experiments that were tried in other countries. This would encourage the private sector to play its role in step with the expansion and promotion of the activities of the productive sectors.

The Algerian delegation's talks will continue tomorrow, Thursday, with a sector by sector review of the economic plan in order to obtain support for the reform plan from the World Bank.

Bilateral Cooperation Agreement With Libya Signed

LD2804163794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Excerpt] This morning the proceedings at the al-Djezair Hotel of the Algerian-Libyan preparatory committee for cooperation have been concluded with the signing of a bilateral agreement on multifaceted cooperation.

The Algerian side at the meeting of this committee was represented by Mr. Ahmed Attaf, secretary of state for cooperation and Maghreb affairs, and the Libyan side by Mr. Sulayman al-Shahhumi, general secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity in charge of the Arab Maghreb Union's affairs. [passage omitted]

FFS on Prospects for Cooperation With Government

LD2804214894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Excerpt] At the opening of the ordinary session of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], the acting secretary-general stated that his party rejected any dialogue which did not aim at establishing democracy and human rights or did not conform to international values. During the session there was also talk about the Amazighi [Berber] and the national identity. Nasima Kirat reports:

[Kiratg] At FFS headquarters acting General Secretary Lounaoussi Hamid met veterans of the FFS. He directed his comments to the current situation the country is going through.

[Begin Lounaoussi recording] The FFS rejects violence as political means. The FFS rejects any agreement or settlement that could be reached between parties which advocate violence at the expense of democracy and the Algerian people. The FFS rejects any dialogue which does not aim at building an Algeria of democracy, an Algeria of Human rights, an Algeria that conforms with international values. [end recording]

[Kirat] He also spoke about the Amazighi cultural movement which continues, as he said, to advocate the Amazighi identity. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Christopher, 'Arafat, Peres Continue Visit in Cairo

Leaders Hold Meeting

NC2804153794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held a meeting at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis this afternoon that was attended by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Christopher, Peres Hold News Conference

NC2804163394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has expressed his belief that it is possible to reach an agreement this evening with the Palestinian side on resolving certain pending issues that have not yet been solved. He noted that there are other issues that will be negotiated after signing the agreement between the Palestinian and Israeli parties on implementing self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

Regarding the Israeli-Syrian track, Peres stressed that Israel is serious about withdrawal from the Golan, although the size and limits of this withdrawal have not been determined. This came in a joint news conference held by Peres and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at noon today following their talks at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo.

Discussing the Palestinian track, Peres said that it is possible to solve all pending issues this evening to open the way for signing an agreement on implementing Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. He noted that the issues that will be left for negotiations after signing the agreement pertain to registration of papers, mail, telephones, naming and defining the powers of authorities, security issues, and two issues relating to legal jurisdiction.

Regarding the Golan, Peres said that the size and limits of Israeli withdrawal from the Golan must be part of the negotiations. He noted that Warren Christopher may help to bring the Syrian and Israeli views closer.

Christopher pointed out that he met with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat this morning and that he made sure that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations were

making progress, although there are still certain issues that have not yet been settled. He said: "I want to emphasize that the Israelis and their Palestinian neighbors have some concerns about the future." He said that both the Israeli and Palestinian parties have recently suffered tragedies. This increases the importance of the role Peres and his colleagues are playing. He expressed his appreciation for the Israeli foreign minister and the negotiating team for their ceaseless search for peace. He voiced his hope that these endeavors will be capped with success. He stressed that establishing peace is the best thing to confront terrorism.

Peres praised Christopher's persistent efforts to help achieve peace in the Middle East. He said: "I believe that these efforts are extremely important, particularly because we are coming close to the end of the negotiations with the Palestinians." He said: "The U.S. secretary of state's participation is important and is of considerable help to us." He noted that certain important issues remain to be discussed in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, noting that the negotiators need support and backing from the U.S. secretary of state, Yasir 'Arafat, and our friends in Egypt so that they may reach results. He said: "We are meeting in Cairo today to reach solutions to pending issues."

Responding to a question on negotiations with Syria and what Israel will offer, Peres said: "We said, Prime Minister Rabin and I, that we are ready to withdraw from the Golan Heights or withdraw within the area. We did not define the limits or size of this withdrawal because this must be part of the negotiations." He added: "We believe that Christopher can bring both parties closer. "He expressed confidence that Christopher will bring closer the Israeli and Syrian parties and will take into account "all issues" and not only territory. He noted that these issues include security and the nature of peace. He said that general peace from a comprehensive perspective must involve all parties including the Palestinians.

Peres said: We are serious regarding Syria. We want to achieve peace with Syria. Peace will not be comprehensive until it includes solving the problems with Syria. Peres expressed the belief that "there is no difference between the U.S. and Israeli aims toward peace in the region."

Asked about the Palestinian-Israeli talks, Warren Christopher said: The basic issue now is helping the sides to reach an agreement. This is what we are working to achieve today. As the two sides have stated, they are very close to reaching this agreement. Once the agreement is ready, there will be a signing ceremony.

Christopher said that the most important thing is that this agreement should enter the implementation phase. Commenting on Christopher's remarks, Peres said: There are some outstanding issues that we will discuss later today in an attempt to reach an agreement on them.

Asked about Iran, Christopher expressed his "extreme anger" about the terrorism that Iran is planning, not only in the Middle East but also in other areas. He said: I believe this is one of the reasons the United States does not deal with Iran the way it cooperates with other states from the standpoint of giving them special economic privileges.

Christopher added: We will not cooperate with the Iranians in this domain until they improve their behavior in various ways. He explained that this includes support for the peace process in the Middle East, which Iran rejects. He expressed the belief that "Iran deserves to be isolated."

On Britain's stand on Iran, Christopher said he is not aware of any British plans toward Iran. However, he noted that he was in London recently. He believes Britain shares his concern regarding Iran.

The talks between Christopher and Peres were held at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo. They began with a separate meeting between Christopher and Peres, who were later joined by the members of the U.S. and Israeli delegations. The talks lasted 90 minutes.

Final Signing Planned for 4 May

NC2804164994 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has declared that the PLO and Israel have agreed on 4 May as the target date for the final signing of the agreement on Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. He noted that he proposed signing the agreement in Cairo. This statement was made after the talks President Mubarak held with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

President Mubarak said that a meeting will be held between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on 3 May. He said that he asked U.S. Secretary of State Christopher to extend his mission in the region to attend the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. It is noteworthy that both sides signed an agreement in principle in Washington on 13 September.

President Mubarak received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis this afternoon. They reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East issue and the efforts designed to propel the peace efforts in the region.

President Mubarak then received U.S. Secretary of State Christopher. He then held a meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, Secretary Christopher, and Israeli Foreign Minister Peres. After the meeting, the four leaders held a news conference at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis.

Leaders Hold Joint News Conference

NC2804204094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held a news conference at the end of their meeting at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis today. President Mubarak made a statement at the beginning of the conference. He noted that today's meeting was good. He said: I met first with U.S. Secretary of State Christopher and then with President 'Arafat, and the Israeli foreign minister. He added: The four of us then held a lengthy meeting together, during which we discussed numerous issues that are still unresolved. Indeed, we found solutions for some of these issues but certain small issues that may prove difficult remain unresolved. These issues, he said, will be discussed and resolved in the next two days. He noted that 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin will meet before signing the agreement because two issues must be resolved by the two leaders. He said: I hope they will succeed and I proposed that they sign the agreement in Cairo on 4 May. The two sides agreed on this. He said that the two parties also agreed that 'Arafat and Rabin will meet on 3 May. He said: I asked Secretary Christopher to postpone his work in Europe and to stay in the region to attend this meeting. He said: We are all aware of the U.S. role in advancing the peace process.

Secretary Christopher then made a statement in which he thanked President Mubarak. He said: We held a good meeting during which tangible progress in major issues was achieved. He said: I am touched by both parties' interest in quickly finding solutions to their problems and starting to implement the agreement. He added: I agreed to stay until 3 and 4 May, the date for signing the agreement and I am happy that the two parties set 4 May as a specific date to sign the agreement on implementing the Declaration of Principles. He thanked President Mubarak and expressed his appreciation for the role he played during the protracted talks at the end of which the two sides were persuaded to set a date to sign the agreement.

President 'Arafat then made a statement in which he thanked President Mubarak and Secretary Christopher. Here President Mubarak remarked: I thank you both. 'Arafat said: I thank you, U.S. President Bill Clinton, and Secretary Christopher for what we achieved today. He added: We hope that we will achieve a tangible result of substance, as you have said, to offer to our two peoples.

Peres made a statement in which he thanked President Mubarak and the U.S. Secretary of State for their participation in and support for the peace process to put an end to a long journey and usher in the start of a new journey in relations between the Palestinians and Israelis and to take a new step on the path toward peace in the Middle East.

Responding to a question on the pending issues and the others on which agreement was reached, President 'Arafat said: Wait and see. Peres commented saying: The two points involve the size of Jericho and security at the crossing points, adding that 'Arafat and Rabin will discuss these points at their meeting. Christopher remarked: There are also other issues. Peres said: Yes, but these are the two points that Rabin and 'Arafat will decide how to settle.

In response to a question on whether this would mean reaching an agreement on other issues such as registration, Peres said that there are still certain secondary issues that will be discussed today and tomorrow, adding: We hope that we will settle them.

In reply to a question on the steps that can be taken to motivate the peace process on the Syrian track and on the new ideas he is bringing to the two sides to return to the negotiating table and bring about Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, Christopher said: Regarding efforts to advance the peace process, I believe that the parties will consider what is happening here and will listen to President Mubarak's statement that there is a specific date for signing the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, which in itself would generate considerable momentum. He said: I will meet with the Israeli prime minister tomorrow and I hope that the facilities that I will be able to achieve during these two meetings will generate new momentum. I hope that you are aware that our current role does not allow us to disclose more details.

Responding to a question on his feelings about security in Egypt, particularly in view of the presence of four leaders and of the upcoming date of a meeting to sign the agreement in Cairo, Christopher said: I have learned that the current situation in Egypt is encouraging. President Mubarak told me that tourists are coming back to Egypt in large numbers. I believe that this is a strong indication that the convoy is proceeding on the right path under the leadership of President Mubarak.

Christopher Confers With 'Arafat

NC2804190594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher left Cairo this evening after a two-day visit to Egypt as part of a tour of the region. Christopher's tour aims to intensify efforts to promote the peace process and achieve progress on all tracks, especially the Palestinian-Israeli track.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat conferred at his place of residence in al-Andalus Palace with Christopher this evening. Palestinian sources said the meeting addressed the obstacles still impeding a Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles and the Gaza-Jericho First accord. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Phones Rabin, Discusses Talks

NC2804204694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this evening telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. During the call, the two leaders discussed the results of the talks held in Cairo today, particularly the talks between the Palestinian and Israeli sides, to bring their views closer so that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement can be signed on the proposed date.

Peres on 'Unique' Agreement With PLO

TA2904072894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report on telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, in Cairo, by Mikha Friedman and Ge'ula Even, in Tel Aviv, on 29 April—recorded]

[Text] [Friedman] We will now carry large segments of an interview we conducted earlier this morning with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who is currently in Cairo. Our first question to Peres was about the myriad symbols of sovereignty Israel was prepared to grant the Palestinians: a stamp, passport, international dialing zone, strong police force, legislative assembly. Did you know, we asked Peres, that this was the only autonomy in the world with all these attributes?

[Peres] No, it is not the only case. There are not many autonomous areas in the world. I think that there are only one or two. Each autonomy has its own logic. The autonomous areas I am familiar with have passports and stamps. There is nothing unique about this.

[Friedman] The question is whether this autonomy's internal logic indicates that this is the embryo of the future Palestinian state?

[Peres] I do not know what you mean by the term logic. I only know that we are leaving the Gaza Strip without any intention of ever returning. I do not know what we have to look for in Gaza. You know, we also have to put things in clear perspective. There are 800,000 people in the Gaza Strip. Do we want to give them Israeli passports? Do we seek to prevent them from travelling abroad? Why? We therefore came up with a very original solution. We agreed on laissez-passers and passports for a period of three years; or in other words, until the implementation of the permanent arrangement. I think this is an elegant solution. Look, we should not be niggardly about insignificant things. What do we want? What is all this talk about signs of sovereignty?

[Friedman] Up until yesterday, Israel was very adamant about these issues.

[Peres] Who told you that?

[Friedman] Is this not true? Was Israel prepared to give the Palestinians all this from the very beginning?

[Peres] Excuse me. The decision on this was reached in Israel before I left for Cairo. I made no concessions here. We carefully considered what had to be done and I believe we found a unique, original, and fair solution.

[Friedman] I expressly asked whether this was the embryonic Palestinian state. You know that there are many Israelis who fear this demon [last word in English]?

[Peres] Is it preferable to annex these areas to Israel? We have decided to begin negotiations on the permanent arrangement in two years. These negotiations have to end within a year. We agreed to the issuing of Palestinian laissez-passers for a period of three years. I admit that we were a little bit generous. Why not? This still does not constitute a decision either on a Palestinian state or on the permanent arrangement. This agreement, which is totally unique to the best of my knowledge, deals entirely with an interim period.

[Even] Mr. Peres, I do not know if you have been updated on this but Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu has described this agreement as Israel's biggest political defeat ever. Other right-wing figures voiced similar reactions.

[Peres] I want to tell you that this constitutes tremendous progress. He has already warned about unprecedented political defeats in the past. We are advancing from defeat to defeat. What has Binyamin Netanyahu ever achieved? What did the Likud achieve during its 15 years in the Gaza Strip? Damage, blood, shame, and disgrace. What else? What does he mean by defeat? Does he want to remain in the Gaza Strip? What solutions does he propose for the refugees, poverty, terrorism, assassinations, hatred? What are these empty statements? Anyone can just quote words from the encyclopedia. I think that this is a brave and fair step.

[Even] The question is whether we were not in too much of a hurry to sign the agreement without tying up some very important loose ends.

[Peres] I do not understand what we were supposed to wait for. For more terrorist attacks? I think that Israel must use a stick and carrot approach in its war against terrorism. Although we still have our stick we have dropped the carrot. One cannot quash terrorism with just a stick. We unequivocally have no interest in running the Gaza Strip. We therefore took the appropriate steps. What would we have gained from dragging things out another year? We would have just had more soldiers acting as policemen in the Gaza Strip with daily television coverage of children throwing stones at them while mothers were quaking in fear. What for?

[Friedman] Mr. Peres, there are two contradictory statements which you may be able to square. One of them is the assessment by the director of the Shin Bet according to which the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the Gaza Strip will precipitate a massacre. The second statement came from Hamas [Islamic Resistance

Movement] who said it would not sabotage the agreement between the PLO and Israel. Which of these assessments do you lean toward?

[Peres] I want to make this very clear. Ben-Gurion said that all the experts were very knowledgeable about the past. There are no experts on future developments. Anyone who purports to be an expert about future developments is taking an unnecessary risk. However, I think that an agreement that is equitable both in form and content on the Gaza Strip will greatly help in reducing the level of hatred, and perhaps also violence. I do not see any alternatives. As for the future, time will tell. No one knows which forces will seize control or demonstrate their presence. It is crystal clear, however, that the Palestinians now have an interest in managing a tangible reality through administrative, not violent, measures. The alternative to administration is brute violence.

[Friedman] You met U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Cairo yesterday. Christopher has already arrived in Israel, ostensibly to promote the Syrian-Israeli track. On arrival, however, he somewhat discouragingly stated that he did not anticipate significant progress on this track.

[Peres] No progress will be made without clear and intelligent decisions. If anyone thinks that anything can be achieved by stuttering or demagoguery then they are wrong.

[Friedman] Mr. Peres, I left the most sensitive question for last. Do you think that the agreement you reached with 'Arafat, according to which the PLO promised to immediately deliver any information it receives on the Israeli POW's and MIA's to the Israeli Government, will satisfy Yona Baumel, the father of MIA Zekharya Baumel, who called you a traitor this week?

[Peres] That is something I cannot tell you. I only know that both the prime minister and myself have done our best with regard to this sensitive issue. We all belong to the same family. I can certainly understand the feelings of the Baumel family; however, I can also say that we did absolutely everything possible. I would like to take this opportunity to say that I appealed to the Egyptian president who agreed that Egypt would continue to help in the search for the bodies of Israeli pilots and soldiers who fell on Egyptian soil. I know that this issue is also very sensitive and important to the families and to all Israelis. We will never forget the people who risked their lives, fell in battle, or have been missing in action since then. This is the responsibility of the State of Israel and its government, and we will continue to exert serious efforts in this regard and tenaciously pursue this issue.

[Friedman] Thank you, Foreign Minister Peres in Cairo.

Peres Leaves Cairo

NC2904065094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres left Cairo this morning after a one-day visit to Egypt. During the visit he held talks with President Husni Mubarak, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on the implementation of the self-rule accord in Gaza and Jericho.

'Arafat Leaves for Tunis

NC2904114094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo for Tunis today after a two-day visit to Egypt. During the visit 'Arafat held talks with President Husni Mubarak, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The talks resulted in the fixing of 4 May as the target date for the signing in Cairo of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the implementation of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

'Arafat was seen off at the airport by Fatah Representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

Al-Alfi Announces Imminent Arrest of 'Terrorists'

LD2804190194 Tripoli JANA in English 1827 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, Al Tayr [April] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Hasan al-Alfi the minister of interior in Egypt has announced that the next few hours shall witness the arrest of a group of Muslim brothers elements whom he described as terrorists.

Al-Alfi confirmed that the elements group which was recently exposed has for its sole purpose the destruction of Egypt and undermining the reforms in every way. He indicated that large amounts of foreign currencies had been seized with the elements confirming their state of being agents for others.

Al-Alfi also said that the elements of Muslim brothers are a group of mercenary terrorists undermining the Islam and distorting its image.

Security Forces Arrest Killer of Police Captain

NC2804174594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—Security men today arrested the killer of Captain Khalid Mustafa of the al-Hammam police force in Marsa Matruh, who was killed by a bullet last night. A security source in the Interior Ministry stated that defendant Fayiz Miftah Muhammad Sulayman admitted committing the crime and led the police to the weapon he used, an unregistered

double-barreled hunting rifle. Capt. Khalid was killed and a police detective was injured in the shoot-out after they carried out a job arresting a defendant in the al-Hammam area in Marsa Matruh. The defendant was hunting in the area. When he saw the police force approaching, he tried to escape and during the chase he fired at the police force, killing Capt. Khalid and injuring a soldier.

Security Source Provides Details on Asyut Shooting

NC2704182394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1652 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—The security agencies have announced that the killing of a detective earlier today was caused by indiscriminate gunfire resulting from a vendetta between certain families. The gunfire occurred as voters were going to cast their ballots in elections for the People's Assembly members.

A security source stressed that at about 0820 today Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad Sulayman was driving in a government vehicle belonging to the Housing Directorate accompanied by a four-man force, a detective, and a sentry along the al-'Iqal al-Bahri road. Another vehicle with an officer and four soldiers happened to be driving behind the first vehicle. The two cars came under indiscriminate gunfire, forcing the soldiers in the back vehicle to return fire. The government vehicle swerved and fell into a canal. Detective 'Atiyah was killed and soldiers Jum'ah Makram Hasanayn, Muhammad Fathi Ahmad, Jamal Makram Kamil, and sentry Muhammad Hasan Darwish were slightly injured in the crash.

Authorities Reportedly Foil Two Car Bomb Attempts

NC2904072394 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 20 Apr 94 p 1

[Excerpts] Security sources disclosed that authorities have foiled a terrorist plot to detonate two booby-trapped vehicles, one of them a black Mercedes, which were to be targeted against prominent government officials. [passage omitted]

The black Mercedes was rigged with 14 kg of explosives and was to be detonated either by remote control or manually by starting the engine. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, security sources have disclosed that terrorists spent one and a half months digging a tunnel under Salah Salim road [in Cairo]. The diggers wore orange uniforms similar to those worn by telephone and municipal workers. [passage omitted]

People's Assembly Passes Foreign Exchange Law

NC2704080594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] The People's Assembly will resume its meetings today under the chairmanship of the speaker, Dr. Fathi Surur. In last night's session, the Assembly ratified the foreign currency bill. Under the new law, all individuals and corporations will be allowed to retain all their foreign currency earnings [rather than convert it into Egyptian pounds].

Assembly members stressed that this law will boost confidence in the Egyptian economy, encourage foreign and domestic investment, and stimulate the national economy.

Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud, minister of economy and foreign trade, told the Assembly that the law will benefit both importers and exporters. The minister added that the $16 billion that the Central Bank has in reserves measure the extent of the success of the country's economic policy. There is an oversupply of foreign exchange in Egypt and the new law will help bring about a balance between the supply and demand for foreign currency, Minister Mahmud stated.

Sudan Reportedly Moves Troops Toward Disputed Area

NC2904091194 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 20 Apr 94 pp 1,4

[Text] At a time when preparations are under way for a meeting between Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Talib, differences have again arisen over the Hala'ib triangle after the Sudanese Government has granted development projects there to foreign companies. Moreover, the Sudanese Government has appointed officials to administer the region, moved some military units closer to the border, and set up a center headed by a number of senior officers from the Military Operations Department.

Diplomatic sources have noted that the Sudanese measures conflict with the agreement that the two foreign ministers reached on the sidelines of the Arab League meeting last month. That agreement stipulates that neither side shall take any measures that might jeopardize the negotiations on resolving the crisis over Hala'ib.

The new Sudanese moves have surprised the Egyptian Government, especially since the Sudanese Government has expressed its readiness to accept the Egyptian documents on the dispute. The Sudanese Government had previously rejected these documents, claiming they were forged British documents.

Sudan's flexibility toward Hala'ib came after Egypt expressed its opposition to any attempt for secession in southern Sudan. In a telephone conversation with [Sudanese President] 'Umar al-Bashir, President Mubarak said Egypt would do its utmost to prevent the south from seceding from the north.

Meanwhile, Syria is continuing to mediate between Cairo and Khartoum. It is trying to increase the meetings between Egyptian and Sudanese officials and to bridge the differences in their views.

Rwandan Trade Minister Arrives for Talks

NC2804073494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—Rwanda's Trade, Industry, and Crafts Minister, Justin Mugenzi, arrived in Cairo early this morning on a visit to Egypt of several days.

The Rwandan minister said he would meet President Husni Mubarak, in his capacity as chairman of the OAU, to discuss the current critical situation in Rwanda following the death of Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana and the attacks carried out by the rebel Rwandan National Front.

The Rwandan minister said he would also explain to President Mubarak the failure to honor the Arusha Peace Agreement signed on 4 August 1993 and the violation of international accords and the principle of good-neighborliness by our neighboring state of Uganda.

He noted that what matters now is for the international public and the OAU to realize the role the Ugandan president is playing toward Rwanda and the extent of his material and moral influence.

The Rwandan president explained that he will brief President Mubarak on the UN role in supervising the implementation of the peace agreements in his country and will discuss the effects the UN Security Council resolutions will have on the UN mission in Rwanda.

He said he will seek President Mubarak's help to stop the violence and massacres in his country and restore stability and security.

Mauritania

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Meets With President Taya

LD2704230794 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Excerpts] His Excellency the President of the Republic Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, this evening at the presidential palace, received His Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs in the brotherly State of Kuwait. After the meeting, the minister made the following statement, to our colleague Mohamed Mokhtar Ould Yiahi, in which he said that he had delivered to his excellency the president of the republic a letter from his brother Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, emir of the State of Kuwait.

[Begin al-Jabir recording] I was delighted at meeting his excellency the president and was honored to carry this letter, which I delivered to him from his his highness Shaykh Jabir. I am glad that we exchanged points of view regarding bilateral relations, as I said, and the developments of the situation in our region which is the Arab Gulf region. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir arrived in the capital this evening from Algeria. [passage omitted]

In a statement to our colleague Mohamed Mokhtar Ould Yiahi, the Kuwaiti minister expressed his happiness with this visit and said:

[Begin al-Jabir recording] Being on the good land, the Arab Republic of Mauritania, I can only express my thanks and esteem for my brother Ahmed Salem Ould Lekhel [Mauritanian foreign affairs minister], for renewing the invitation to me to visit this country from which I have memorable souvenirs and where I have several friends whom I have not and do not want to forget. In fact his highness honored me by asking me to deliver a written letter from him to his brother the president.

I will also discuss with the minister for foreign affairs and cooperation, brother Mohamed Salem, all the issues of interest to both the countries in all spheres, particularly bilateral relations and the developments in the Arab world. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Joint Communique Issued

LD2804211094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1716 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Nouakchott, 28 Apr—Mauritania has stressed today her "supportive stance vis-a-vis the independence of the State of Kuwait and her sovereignty over her internationally recognized boundaries according to the international Resolution No. 833" and demanded a settlement to the issue of the Kuwaiti POW's and detainees in the Iraqi prisons.

A joint communique released here at the end of the visit by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, the Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to Nouakchott stressed "Mauritania's continued abidance by the resolutions of international legitimacy relating to the war of liberating Kuwait [no closing quotation mark as received].

The communique added that the two sides, the Kuwaiti and the Mauritanian, have discussed the overall developments at the Arab and Islamic arena.

On the other hand, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad hailed the results of his visit to Mauritania and described it as "successful and fruitful."

This remark was made in an interview by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad with the Mauritanian information media before his departure from Nouakchott for Rabat.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said the visit has paved the way for building strong and solid relations between the two countries.

The two sides called for serious efforts to cleanse the Arab air and overcome the obstacles that prevent the strengthening and consolidating Arab and Islamic solidarity. They expressed their commitment to the Arab League and UN charters, and their respect for the territorial integrity and regional security of states.

The statement said that the two sides expressed their support for the Middle East peace process on the basis of land for peace and the international resolutions calling for the restoration of all Arab rights, particularly the Palestinian people's right to regain their land and self-determination.

The statement added that the two sides expressed their hope that the brothers in Yemen would reach a solution that would please everyone and safeguard Yemen's territorial integrity and stability.

Regarding the situation in Somalia, the two sides expressed their hope that a settlement would be reached that would safeguard Somalia's sovereignty and territorial safety.

In their statement, the two sides called on the international community to find a quick solution to the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and expressed their condemnation of the attacks by Serb gangs to which the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina were exposed.

The statement pointed out that the Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister had extended and invitation to Mohamed Ould Lekhal, the Mauritanian foreign affairs and cooperation minister, to visit the State of Kuwait that was accepted by the Mauritanian minister, and that Shaykh Sabah had expressed his gratitude for the hospitality and honor he was accorded during his visit to Mauritania.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Addresses Citizens, Grants Amnesty

EA2804212794 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has said that the enemies of Islam and the revolution meet abroad and incite the colonialists to invade Sudan. He called on the sons of the homeland to prepare to defend it. During his address yesterday in al-Mujlad town, in Western Kordofan State, Lt. Gen. 'Umar said the banner of Islam has risen in Sudan, pointing out the [word indistinct] of the imam al-Mahdi. He promised the masses to contribute to the success of the missionary activity project and agricultural projects to strengthen development.

His excellency also issued a decree granting amnesty to all those who were involved in the incidents of the Misiriyyah and Zuyud [tribal clashes] and he received the reconciliation document concerning this issue.

Police Reportedly on Alert as Demonstrations Spread

PM2804113094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Apr 94 pp 1, 4

['Uthman Mirghani report: "Sudanese Police Prepares To Confront 'Mobile' Demonstrations"]

[Excerpt] London—Well-informed sources have confirmed that a state of high alert has been announced in the Sudanese police, as 'mobile' protest demonstrations have spread.

The sources linked the announcement of the high alert with the movement of protest demonstrations from the city of Medani in central Sudan to al-Husayhisah, Abu Haraz, Rufa'ah, al-Hilaliyah, and then al-Kamilin.

Several Sudanese sources inside and outside the country said yesterday that demonstrations have reached the city of Atbara, the largest industrial city in Sudan.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT could not confirm reports that demonstrators burned down some railroad maintenance workshops in Atbara.

Sudanese authorities fear the possibility of the demonstrations, staged to protest deteriorating living and economic conditions, moving to Khartoum, especially after what happened in al-Muradah district a few days ago and what happened in Omdurman a few weeks ago.

In the context of the measures taken as a result of these developments and demonstrations, al-Jazirah University Director Mubarak 'Ali Majzub issued a decision dismissing 29 male and female students from the university, from which protest demonstrations were launched in Medani last week. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Iraqi Envoy Conveys Message to President Ben Ali

JN2704165594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1313 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Tunis, 27 Apr (INA)—On behalf of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui today received Barzan al-Tikriti, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy.

During the meeting, Barzan al-Tikriti delivered a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The message deals with the latest developments at the UN Security Council, Iraq's implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, the UN Security Council's obligations toward lifting the blockade, and the required inter-Arab coordination and consultation to achieve this objective.

The message also relays Iraq's stand on the current Arab situation, which requires that the leaf of the past be turned and Arab solidarity revived.

During the meeting, Hamed Karoui expressed the solidarity of the Tunisian leadership and people with Iraq. He stressed that Tunisia will spare no effort in the move to put an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people, especially since Iraq has implemented the relevant resolutions.

The Tunisian prime minister asked Barzan al-Tikriti to convey President Zine El Abidne Ben Ali's greetings to President Saddam Husayn.

Kuwaiti Minister Ends Visit; Joint Statement Issued

LD2604203294 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] The State of Kuwait and Tunisia have stressed the significance of implementing all the UN resolutions relating to the respect of the independence and sovereignty of the State of Kuwait, including Resolution No. 833, which embodies the geographical framework of the borders between the State of Kuwait and Iraq, and on resolving the question of the Kuwaiti POW's and hostages in the prisons of the Iraqi regime.

A joint statement released today at the end of the first visit to Tunisia by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign Minister, says that the visit of the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister to Tunisia stemmed from the fraternal relations between the peoples of the two countries, and the close relations which his highness the amir and his brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali have laid.

The statement notes that the talks between the delegations of the two countries dealt with ways of promoting bilateral relations and an exchange of views on Arab, Islamic, and international issues of mutual interest.

The two sides renewed their support of the peace process in the Middle East aimed at achieving a just and durable peace which ensures legitimate Arab rights. The two sides also stress their backing for the efforts exerted at realizing national reconciliation in Yemen and maintaining its unity and cohesion.

Regarding the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the two sides express their profound concern at the aggressive acts, genocide, and ethnic cleansing to which the unarmed people of Bosnia is subjected at the hands of the Serbs. The two sides demand that the international community shoulder its responsibility through an immediate implementation of the Security Council's resolutions, and to save a state member of the United Nations [as heard].

GCC Foreign Ministers Meet With Christopher

LD2704205094 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Excerpts] A meeting was held this afternoon at the headquarters of the general secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] in Riyadh between their royal highnesses and excellencies the GCC foreign ministers and his excellency Mr. Warren Christopher, U.S. secretary of state. [passage omitted]

HRH Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal described the meeting as excellent and an opportunity to cover a number of topics, foremost of which was the peace process in the Middle East. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal added to journalists that the meeting was excellent and general and later he would be preparing official statements on the viewpoints of his colleagues the GCC foreign ministers.

Replying to a question on whether the United States had nominated an ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sa'ud al-Faysal replied: Yes, indeed. [passage omitted]

Warren Christopher asserted, in a similar statement: We had a very serious meeting during which we talked about a number of topics revolving around the Gulf area. Security matters were the main topic of our talks; they were on Iraq and Iran.

He went to say: We also talked about the peace process in the Middle East, the various aspects of such a process and the contribution made by a great number of countries towards it and in holding the multiparty meetings. He pointed out that great progress had been made at the meeting.

Gulf States Wary of U.S. Democratization Proposal

NC2904080794 Paris AFP in English 1152 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Riyadh, April 23 (AFP)—Gulf Arab states have reservations about a U.S. document calling on them to encourage pluralism and democracy as the basis of future relations in the Middle East, Arab diplomats said here Saturday.

The document, presented to the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in February, said the United States wanted to see participants in the multilateral Middle East peace talks "encourage individual and collective freedoms and pursue democracy and pluralism."

It said relations between states in the region should be based on such concepts in the future.

Foreign Ministry officials from GCC members Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman met in Riyadh Saturday to discuss the document. They had "reservations" about the proposals, the diplomats said.

The ministry officials were to coordinate their positions on the document and review their participation in the multilateral talks, launched at the Madrid peace conference in 1991.

Of the six GCC states only Kuwait has a freely elected parliament with various political groups represented.

The other five have specially-appointed consultative assemblies.

On Tuesday the multilateral working group on water resources—one of five set up in Madrid—ended talks in Oman with agreements on five projects to boost scarce water supplies and establish Israeli-Arab cooperation.

The talks were attended by an Israeli delegation, visiting a Gulf Arab country for the first time ever.

Qatar is due to host a meeting of the working group on disarmament from May 2 to 5.

The other three groups deal with economic cooperation, refugees and the environment.

Gulf States Discuss Proposal

PM2904093294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Sulayman Nimr: "Gulf States Studying 'Declaration of Principles' Proposed by United States for Multilaterals"]

[Text] London—Experts from the foreign ministries of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states discussed at a meeting in Riyadh yesterday a draft statement proposed by the United States for the multilateral negotiations in the Middle East. It is called the "declaration of principles" statement. The U.S. Administration submitted it for approval by the participating states during the multilateral negotiations steering committee meetings in Ottawa on 6 February. The proposed declaration lays the foundations for the shape of political and economic cooperations among Middle Eastern states.

The meeting of the Gulf foreign ministries' experts was held to discuss developments in the multilaterals and the meetings of their five committees and ways of coordinating positions in this connection.

The Sultanate of Oman last week hosted the meetings of the water committee arising from these negotiations. Qatar is scheduled to host the arms control committee meetings next Monday. And Bahrain has offered to host the environment committee meetings scheduled to held next fall.

The GCC states showed interest in the draft "declaration of principles" proposed by the United States because of the clauses related to political conditions in Middle Eastern states and the future of relations among them; the declaration urges working "to develop a view of what the region will be like after the achievement of peace at

the bilateral level, and to develop the regional institutions which the region might need." Gulf states are concerned that this statement might impose on it material and political obligations they do not need. This is why despite their participation in the meetings of the multilateral committees, they do not want any future obligations to be imposed on them. Hence the experts' meetings in Riyadh are important to the foreign ministers.

As is known, Gulf experts for the multilaterals met on 26 March and sent a report containing their view to their foreign ministers during their meetings in the Saudi capital in the first week of this month. The ministers decided that the experts should meet again.

GCC States' 'Reservations' Noted

PM2904085494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Apr 94 p 4

[Report by Hasin al-Bunyan: "Gulf Reservations About U.S. Draft for Multilaterals"]

[Text] Riyadh—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will meet tomorrow with the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states at the GCC General Secretariat.

Well-informed sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Gulf ministers will discuss with Christopher the proposed draft for a "declaration of principles" of states participating in the multilateral negotiations, which lays the foundations for the shape of political and economic cooperation between the states of the region.

The United States submitted this draft to the GCC states during the meeting of the multilateral negotiations steering committee, which convened in Ottawa, Canada, in February. Under secretaries of the GCC foreign ministries met in Riyadh at the beginning of the week to discuss this draft. They reached a joint formula in this connection. The ministers will discuss this formula with Christopher when they meet with him tomorrow.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that some GCC states have reservations about some clauses in the proposed U.S. draft, especially those related to the pledge to establish democracy and party pluralism and encourage individual and collective freedoms.

In addition to GCC Secretary General Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi, the meeting will be attended by the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, and the Sultanate of Oman. It will not be attended by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who is on a tour of the Maghreb states. Kuwait will be represented at the meeting by 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet affairs, planning minister, and acting foreign minister.

The "declaration of principles" proposed for the multilaterals in the Middle East region stipulates laying down basic principles to govern relations among regional parties in the region, establishing full relations, and reinforcing regional cooperation and economic development with Israel's participation under the plan to achieve reconciliation; a just, secure, comprehensive, and lasting peace; and mutual trust among all parties in the Middle East region.

Muscat recently hosted the meetings of the water committee arising from these negotiations. Qatar is scheduled to host the arms control committee meetings next Monday. Bahrain too has offered to host the environment committee meetings next fall.

Kuwait

Source Denies Algeria Mediating Dispute With Iraq

LD2604120794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Kuwait City, 26 Apr. (KUNA)—An authoritative source from the Foreign Ministry today denied a report published by the London-based AL-HAYAH on the existence of Algerian good offices to clear the atmosphere between Kuwait and Iraq, on an alleged meeting between Kuwaiti and Iraqi delegations at an Arab embassy, and on a linkage between these allegations and [Foreign Minister] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir's current tour of sisterly Arab states in North Africa. In a statement to KUNA, the source also expressed Kuwait's rejection of any linkage between Shaykh Sabah's tour with the message sent by the president of the Iraqi regime to the Algerian head of state.

The source said that "while Kuwait denies the report published by the London-based AL-HAYAH, it would like to emphasize that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad's tour of sisterly Arab states aims to bolster relations between Kuwait and these states. It also falls within Kuwait's policy of aiming to consolidate ties between Arab brothers to strengthen the Arab stance." The source also indicated that Kuwait's relations with Iraq are governed by the UN resolutions that Iraq must adhere to instead of pursuing blatant attempts to flout them and refusing to implement them.

In today's edition, AL-HAYAH published a report which it attributed to a source close to the Algerian Foreign Ministry who stated that "Algerian endeavors are being made to clear the atmosphere among Arab brothers." The paper reported that the source "did not rule out the possibility of Algerian mediation between Kuwait and Iraq." The paper added that reliable sources had disclosed to AL-HAYAH that "a Kuwaiti delegation has held a meeting with an Iraqi delegation at an Arab embassy."

Saudi Arabia

Minister Views Talks With U.S. Secretary of State

LD2804194894 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Statement by Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal al Sa'ud—read by announcer]

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal al Sa'ud and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held a news conference at King Khalid international airport prior to Mr. Christopher's departure from Riyadh last night.

It is a source of our pleasure to host today the meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Christopher and their excellencies the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council states [GCC].

The GCC and the U.S. have a long history of firmly established relations. The most prominent of its characteristics is the close cooperation to achieve regional peace and security in the interest of all states of the region.

During our talks, we reviewed with Christopher our common positions regarding the threat which Iraq still poses to regional security. We agreed on a common, firm, and vigilant stand toward Iraq to ensure the full implementation of UN sanctions in accordance with the Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 833 on the demarcation of borders between the state of Kuwait and Iraq. Christopher also reaffirmed, on behalf of the American President, America's commitment to defend the Gulf. This commitment is appreciated by all the GCC states.

The two sides expressed their utmost appreciation for the efforts made by the United Arab Emirates and which are aimed at solving the crisis of the three islands, Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The two sides also asked the Islamic Republic of Iran to enter serious negotiations with the United Arab Emirates with a view to reaching a peaceful solution to the issue of the three islands in accordance with international law and the principle of peaceful coexistence between states.

Christopher presented the GCC foreign ministers with a resume on the progress of the peace process and the objectives of his visit to the region.

The states of the region reaffirmed their full support of the peaceful settlement through negotiations. In this respect the ministers noted with satisfaction the progress that have taken place in the Palestinian-Israeli accord, stressing once again the need for speeding up the implementation of that accord. The ministers also pledged to continue their tireless efforts to back up the negotiations and the agreements that are reached at in the other courses, and their effective participation in the multilateral talks. One of the multilateral meetings had been held in the Gulf area and another meeting is on the way to be held in the area.

The GCC foreign ministers see that all parties have to exert every possible effort to ensure the progress of the peace process.

The ministers condemn terrorism anywhere in the world and stress the need to abandon extremism which threatens the peace process.

The ministers appreciate the efforts of President Clinton and the U.S. Secretary of State aiming at underpinning the Arab-Israeli peace.

The ministers are looking forward to the day when a new chapter will be opened in the Middle East and the comprehensive and just peace be realized to all peoples of the region.

Regarding events in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the ministers expressed their sincere appreciation of the firm stance taken by the U.S. and their wish that this stance would continue until a peaceful solution is reached.

News Conference Held

LD2804203294 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Report on news conference by Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Riyadh on 28 April]

[Text] In reply to a question on whether he had discussed with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques the project for the extension of the telecommunications network in the Kingdom and whether one of the U.S. companies had won the deal, the U.S. Secretary of State said: I did not discuss this matter with the King and I am certain that the matter will be examined carefully here in Saudi Arabia. I am also certain that the government will seriously study the bid made by U.S. IT&T.

Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud replied to a question on whether he had received a pledge from the American side to speed up the Middle East peace process and said: As Mr. Christopher has noted, they are endeavoring on this path and the U.S. is hoping and is determined to contribute in speeding up the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and in pushing forward the other processes.

Prince al-Faysal was asked about the outcome of the discussions on the Arab-Israeli peace talks in the other processes. In reply he said that the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques told Secretary Christopher that he hoped that during his current visit to the states in the region, progress would be achieved and that serious and persistent efforts would be made toward a just and comprehensive solution in the Syrian process. He also reaffirmed the need to advance on the Lebanese process.

Asked if he was prepared to lift the boycott of Israel the Saudi Foreign Minister said: Yes. We have discussed the question of the boycott and as you know this issue was reviewed within the framework of the Arab League. We expect and we hope that progress will be made in this respect after the implementation of the Declaration of Principles. We also hope that this will take place after progress has been made in the other processes of the talks.

Moreover, Christopher replied to a question on the foreign ministers' meeting in Europe next week on Bosnia and whether he had discussed the matter with Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev yesterday and whether he had any reaction to a report released in Geneva today on the situation in Gorazde and he said: The contact group must be given the necessary time to explore the matter with the various sides but only after they are given the opportunity which will enable them to do that. He indicated that the contact group would present a report to the foreign ministers of the countries concerned. He added: We discussed this issue in general terms yesterday and we wanted to give the contact group, which has links with many sides, the opportunity to explore the matter but as soon as possible. We will move quickly to start the talks on Thursday and Friday. He expressed the hope to see this take place at the appropriate time in the near future. He indicated that this was the moment which would give the opportunity to achieve some progress in the context of NATO's clear success in Gorazde.

Responding to a question on the lifting of sanctions on Iraq, Secretary Christopher said: I believe that the statement I have made is self-explanatory on this subject. However I can say that I believe that when the Security Council member states see that Iraq is not complying with the resolutions and the existing sanctions, these states will realize the importance of maintaining these sanctions. I also believe that it is high time the U.S. and all those interested in the situation in Iraq stood together to prevent Iraq from getting the impression that there will be any easing of the sanctions.

Responding to another question, Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud said: I would also like to refer you to a statement made by the Gulf Cooperation Council on the subject and which I read at the beginning. Moreover, I would like to say that these sanctions, in our opinion, are an integral part and Iraq must commit itself to implement all the Security Council resolutions, particularly the resolution on the recognition of the Iraqi-Kuwait borders which is considered to be the core of the conflict. We do not wish to see a repetition of this conflict in our region. Thus, we must ensure that this point in the UN resolutions is fully implemented; and we would also like to ensure that what is going to be implemented is not only related to the issue of weapons mentioned in the resolutions.

I also reaffirm what Secretary Christopher has said to the effect that this common stand which we are adopting is not a hostile stand toward the Iraqi people but it is a stand aimed at ensuring that the conflict is not repeated in the future between Iraq and the countries in the region, as this would cause further pain to the people of Iraq and the peoples of the region. If anybody is responsible for the situation in which the people of Iraq find themselves, the government of Iraq is certainly responsible. In a nutshell, the UN resolutions deal very clearly with the humanitarian aspects; therefore, the government of Iraq is entirely responsible.

Asked whether he has discussed with Gulf ministers the situation in Yemen, Secretary Christopher said: Yes, during my meeting with the GCC ministers and during my meeting with King Fahd the situation in Yemen was discussed. The ministers and King Fahd insisted on the need for the two parties concerned in Yemen to resolve their disputes for the sake of peace in the region. The Saudi foreign minister might want to add something to that.

At this point, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal spoke and said: Thank you. I believe that our two positions reflect our hope that all disputes, whatever they may be, are resolved through negotiations and talks. Furthermore, many Arab and other sides are intervening in this respect and we hope that these disputes will be resolved peacefully and amicably within the framework of Yemen's unity.

Yemen

'Fierce' Battles Reportedly Continue North of Sanaa

NC2804132894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Political sources in Sanaa said today that fierce battles have resumed for the second consecutive day between Yemeni Army units positioned north of Sanaa. This fighting follows the collapse of the cease-fire declared last night.

According to the sources, heavy artillery and tanks are being used in the fighting between units loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and units who support Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Well-informed sources in Aden confirm the news of the fighting, saying that the southern forces, stationed north of Sanaa, are in control of the situation. These forces seized 30 tanks belonging to the northern forces and destroyed 15 others, according to the same sources.

Sources Say 800 Killed in Clashes

NC2804190294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Yemen said today that the ongoing battles between the northern and southern forces have so far left 800 dead and 1,000 others injured.

Further on Fighting

NC2904070694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] The Yemeni House of Representatives has called on the Defense Ministry and the Armed Forces Command to abandon the use of force immediately and abide by the instructions of the legitimate authorities. The House issued a statement saying that its members and the rest of the nation denounce the use of force and all those responsible, directly or indirectly, for fanning the flames of sedition among the sons of the same nation.

A responsible source at the Yemeni Defense Ministry says that Yemen will only overcome the complications created by the fighting in 'Imran camp, north of Sanaa, through solidarity among all patriotic and democratic forces concerned for the country's safety and unity.

Reports speak of more fighting between rival army factions at a military base situated north of Sanaa. Tank battles erupted between forces loyal to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bayd in what was described as the worse fighting in Yemen's history since its unification four years ago. The outcome of the fighting is still unclear, but reports say that about 30 tanks were destroyed and other tanks were captured. Hundreds were reportedly killed or wounded.

The Aden-based South Military Command has issued a call for an immediate end to the fighting, warning that fighting may spill over to other parts of the country, raising the prospect of a destructive civil war.

Further on Fighting

JN2904072694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Independent sources have said that more than 100 people have been killed and 200 others wounded in the clashes that took place in 'Imran, north of Sanaa, on Wednesday and Thursday [27 and 28 April] between the northern and southern armored units.

So far, no official count of casualties has been announced. Initial reports issued by the Defense Ministry in Sanaa noted that dozens of people, including civilians, were killed. The latest reports from Sanaa noted that artillery clashes and tank battles continued yesterday following the failure of the cease-fire reached Wednesday evening. Independent sources said that the southern forces were defeated in the battles, and consequently, the fighting abated yesterday afternoon.

These confrontations created severe tension in Sanaa. The anti-aircraft guns that provide protection for the airport and the Presidential Palace have been placed on alert. It was also reported that a boobytrapped car exploded near the residence of Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, the speaker of the House of Representatives and leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, but no casualties were reported. [passage omitted]

Gunmen Attempt To Assassinate Deputy Prime Minister

JN2804204194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] An official security source at the Interior Ministry has told the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', that at 1345 today brother Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki, the first deputy prime minister, was the target of a sinful assassination attempt. According to initial investigations, five attackers driving two Toyota cars blocked the path of the brother first deputy prime minister's car as it was driving along (?al-Mathar) Street in front of the Ministry of Local Administration. They opened fire on his car with automatic weapons, wounding him in the shoulder and leg. Three of his escorts were fatally wounded. The brother Dr. Hgasan Makki was rushed to hospital, where he has been receiving treatment and is now in satisfactory condition.

Security forces captured the attackers, who are now being questioned.

The source expressed deep regret over this deplorable incident. He called on all citizens to exercise alertness, awareness and restraint to forestall seditions in society. He called for their cooperation to help security agencies fulfill their functions under the critical circumstances our Yemeni homeland is experiencing.

Cabinet, GPC Condemn Assassination Bid

JN2904073594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] The Council of Ministers has issued the following statement:

The Council of Ministers is alarmed by the news of the sinful assassination attempt against brother Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki, the first deputy prime minister, at noon today while he was riding in his car along the airport road in front of the Ministry of Local Administration.

The Council of Ministers deplores this criminal act that targeted the life of brother Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki. Dr. Hasan Makki's driver and two of his escorts were killed in the attempt.

The Council of Ministers thanks God for Dr. Hasan Makki's escape and congratulates him on his safety, wishing him a speedy recovery from the wounds he had sustained. We ask God Almighty to have mercy on thy martyrs who were killed in this attempt. We also offer our warmest condolences to their families, asking God to grant them patience and solace.

The General Committee of the General People's Congress [GPC] has also issued a statement, which says:

The General Committee has received, with extreme regret, the news of the sinful assassination bid against Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki, the first deputy prime

minister and member of the General Committee of the GPC, this afternoon in the capital, Sanaa. The attempt resulted in the wounding of Dr. Makki and the martyrdom of three of his escorts.

The General Committee of the GPC condemns and deplores such criminal acts and asks the security and judicial quarters to quickly put the criminals on trial to receive their just punishment so as to avert fighting and deter anyone who entertains the idea of disturbing society or undermining its security and stability.

The General Committee concluded its statement by beseeching God Almighty to have mercy on the three martyrs. It also extended its warmest condolences and consolation to the families of the martyrs, beseeching God to keep our country and people out of harm's way.

Salih Visits Wounded, Comments on Clashes

JN2904060594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has visited the military hospital where he was reassured about the condition of the wounded from the 3d Armored Brigade and the 1st Armored Brigade who were the victims of the regrettable fighting that broke out the day before yesterday [27 April] in the 'Imran garrison.

The brother president expressed his sympathy and deep regret and sorrow over this incident, which was planned and carried out by irresponsible elements. These elements want to achieve their wicked objectives with the aim of pushing the sons of the one homeland toward conflict and fighting in order to destroy the homeland and return the Yemeni homeland to the situation that prevailed before 22 May 1990. These elements are doing so to satisfy their whims and narrow interests, pursuant to the objectives of forces hostile to the revolution and democracy.

The brother president also expressed his heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyrs and innocent victims of the regrettable incident, noting that all are the sons of the one Yemeni homeland, whose souls and chaste blood are dear to us. He stressed that the sons of the Armed Forces are comrades-in-arms and comrades-in-struggle who stand in one trench to defend the revolution, the republic, homeland, and unity. He said that they will never turn into tools or lackeys of those elements with egocentric inclinations and destructive desires who are forcing the sons of the Armed Forces to pay dearly from their souls and blood for the sake of their destructive inclinations. He noted that the sons of the Armed Forces and security forces are our sons and brothers and we are proud of their sacrifices for the sake of the homeland. He said: They are the sons of this great people; they are faithful to this people's struggle, principles, and sacrifices. They will never allow any tampering with the security, stability, and achievements of the homeland.

The brother president said: The forces that are pushing toward war and fighting and toward igniting the military situation for selfish purposes and personal interests are, in fact, punishing the sons of our people and the members of the valiant Armed Forces by exposing them to death and pushing them toward danger for no reason except to satisfy the whims of these forces, which are being paid for all this.

He said: As the people expect, the sons of the Armed Forces will be the vanguards of the ranks and will form the frontlines that will protect the homeland against all dangers and foil the sick dreams and desperate attempts to redivide the country and impose separation. He added: Any separatist act will be faced with decisiveness and with more coherence among Yemeni unionists.

The brother president praised the high morale and readiness of the injured to sacrifice their souls in defense of unity. He noted that this criminal act, in which the sons of our Armed Forces were dragged into confrontation against each other, falls within the framework of the criminal series of acts that began on 20 February 1993, on the eve of the signing of the accord document in Amman, with the aim of bypassing it and obstructing the accord document's implementation in order to peddle the scheme of separation. He said that this series began with the aggravation of the situation against the al-'Amaliqah Brigade in the Ibyan Governorate and the incidents in Harth Sufyan, Shabwah and Dhamar, when the separatist forces intended to ignite the military situation and mobilize people with to create estrangement and conflicts among the sons of the Armed Forces and to push them toward fighting.

The brother president warned these separatist elements, which planned these criminal acts, against continuing these acts and playing with fire. He called on these elements to turn to reason, wisdom, and peaceful dialogue to resolve all issues, as well as to respect the will of the people and their constitutional institutions. He expressed hope that the tragedy of the 'Imran garrison will be the last tragedy in this beloved homeland in this delicate phase of its history. He also called for a mobilization of all national efforts within the framework of a large-scale national agreement to implement the accord document without hesitation or procrastination to reinforce national unity and strengthen our democratic unifying march.

The brother president urged the military committee to expeditiously present a detailed report on this regrettable incident, its circumstances, and those who stand behind it so that the people will be aware of all the facts.

The brother president instructed officials in the Defense Ministry, the Armed Forces General Staff, and the military hospital to take good care of the wounded. He

also instructed that the serious cases, which cannot be treated in hospitals inside the country, be transferred for treatment abroad.

The president was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Industry Minister Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, Planning and Development Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah, Interior Minister Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutwakkil, and Sanaa Mayor Husayn al-Miswari.

GPC Urges Army Not To Heed YSP 'Separatists'

JN2904063094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] The General Committee of the General People's Congress [GPC] held a meeting yesterday under brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the GPC. The General Committee reviewed developments on the local scene in light of the regrettable incidents witnessed at the 'Imran camp yesterday.

The General Committee issued the following statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. There is the type of man whose speech about this world's life may dazzle thee. And he calls Allah to witness about what is in his heart; yet he is the most contentious of enemies. [Koranic verse]

O masses of our great Yemeni people: The GPC has observed, with extreme concern, the developments of the regrettable criminal incident witnessed by the city of 'Imran on Wednesday. At 1200 that day, a group of the 3d Armored Brigade, acting at the behest of the separatists within the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], carried out a treacherous, cowardly act against the members of the 1st Armored Brigade and innocent citizens in the city of 'Imran. They used tanks, armored vehicles, and heavy artillery, firing shells at the personnel of the 1st Armored Brigade, when the personnel were having lunch peacefully at the dining hall where the members of the joint military committee were present. The joint military committee was on a visit to the camp as part of its efforts to check military developments and pave the way for implementing the military part of the accord document.

Consequently, many members of the 1st Brigade were martyred and injured. The military situation inside the camp also flared up. The comrades-in-arms inside the camp had previously stayed together peacefully for over four years enjoying a spirit of amity and camaraderie. However, the influential separatists did not like this, so they sought to sow discord and ignite fighting between the sons of the Yemeni Armed Forces, using the commander of the 3d Armored Brigade and his accomplice in the crime and sabotage, who is called Yahya Dahish 'Alyan. Both were used as pliable, criminal tools to ignite fighting between the members of the two brigades, causing the loss of dozens of innocent martyrs of troops and citizens in the valiant city of 'Imran. The shells of the 3d Armored Brigade did not spare the homes of those citizens, thus claiming the lives of dozens of innocent martyrs and victims as a result of this treacherous, cowardly act. In addition, many homes and public facilities in the valiant city of 'Imran were destroyed.

The General Committee of the GPC condemns and deplores this heinous crime, which was carried out by certain YSP leaders and which happened at a time when national and political peaceful efforts are being dedicated to the implementation of the accord document, signed in Amman on 20 February, 1994. The crime also took place at a time when efforts were being exerted to bring the state institutions closer to a peaceful and positive relaxation of the crisis, which was engineered by the advocates of separation who rebelled against democracy, unity, peace, and peaceful coexistence. This stand is being repeated with every step made toward a relaxation of the crisis and containment of its developments and the beginning of the implementation of the accord document. It began in Abyan when the situation flared up against the forces of al-'Amaliqah, Shabwah and Harth Sufyan, in addition to the reckless acts carried out by the camp of the Ba-Fahd Brigade, terrorizing defenseless citizens in the city of Dhamar. This situation is being repeated today in the city of 'Imran through the forces of the 3d Armored Brigade, which caused the martyrdom of dozens of victims.

While expressing its regret, warm sympathies, and consolation for all the families of the innocent victims who fell in the premeditated criminal incident—all of them being sons of the one Yemeni homeland and whose chaste blood and precious lives are dear to all of us—the General Committee appeals to the heroic troops, noncommissioned officers, and officers of our valiant Armed Forces to rise to the level of their national responsibility and match the expectations of their people as protectors of the homeland and a shield of its unity and democratic approach. It also appeals to them to be vigilant so as to avert all schemes that target the homeland, its unity, security, and stability. They should not heed the orders issued by the influential separatists within the YSP who seek to throw them into an inferno of death and fighting with their brothers and comrades-in-arms, who stand with them in one trench defending the homeland, the revolution, the republic, and unity. Those influential separatists want to satisfy their sick whims and narrow personal interests, having been blinded by the glitter of [word indistinct] money paid by the enemies of the Yemeni homeland to ignite fighting between the sons of the Yemeni people, divide the homeland, and harm its unity and democracy.

The General Committee also appeals to all parties, factions, and mass organizations and unions to condemn such criminal stupidity, reject calls for separation and division, and close ranks to unify the sincere national will so as to implement the accord document by showing collective responsibility. This will spare the homeland

the danger of falling into the trap of this conspiracy that targets the will of the people, their unity, security and stability.

The General Committee stresses dialogue as a means to resolve all differences. It also asserts that the accord document should be translated into reality, without hesitation or procrastination, since this document is the common denominator between all parties, in order to build a modern Yemeni state.

The General Committee urges the masses of our people to demonstrate more vigilance and alertness and reject and denounce this conspiracy that aims at dragging the country toward more fighting, fragmentation, and sedition. It also reiterates the appeal made by Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the GPC, to the constitutional, legitimate institution—the House of Representatives—to assume all its legal and constitutional responsibilities to put an end to these stupid, criminal acts that threaten the safety, security, and stability of the homeland and citizens. This will safeguard and protect unity, enhance and protect constitutional legitimacy, and protect the citizens and the homeland from the intrigues of enemies and conspirators.

Glory and immortality to the martyrs of unity; death to plotters against unity. Allah will certainly aid those who aid His cause; for verily Allah is full of strength, exalted in might, able to enforce His will. [Koranic verse]

Issued by the General Committee of the GPC.

House of Representatives Discusses Events in 'Imran

JN2804130094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] The House of Representatives held an extraordinary meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, the House speaker. Discussions centered on developments resulting from the country's political crisis, the latest of which are the events that took place in 'Imran.

The House told its committee, which includes members of the Defense and Security Committee, as well as a number of deputies, to immediately begin a fact-finding mission in 'Imran and other problem areas, and to present a comprehensive and urgent report to the House.

The House heard a number of proposals on these developments and assigned the House speakership and leaders of parliamentary blocs to issue a House statement in light of proposals and ideas that were presented at the meeting.

We will broadcast the House statement later this evening. The House of Representatives will continue its meetings next Monday, God willing.

Statement Condemns 'Imran Incidents

JN2804205894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Statement by Yemeni House of Representatives issued on 28 April]

[Excerpt] Praise be to God, who says: And fear the trial which affects not in particular only those of you who do wrong [partial Koranic verse], and peace and blessings be upon his honest messenger, Muhammad, and his family and companions.

The House of Representatives has been following the exacerbating political crisis since the beginning, and has been exerting intensive efforts to end it. In the meantime, the House provided successive chances for coalition parties and direct dialogue to find solutions to the crisis in a manner that satisfies all parties.

The House, along with the masses of our people, used to believe that the drafting and signing of the pledge and accord document would end the political crisis, which has negatively affected every aspect of citizens' daily lives.

Having followed the regrettable military incidents in 'Imran at noon yesterday, Wednesday, 27 April 1994, leaving many of our people's sons in the Armed Forces dead, the House expresses extreme regret and concern for those incidents. It instructs the Defense Ministry and the command of the Armed Forces to immediately stop the use of weapons between the brother members of the same people and same army. It instructs all of them to abide by the instructions of legitimate constitutional authority, which represents the people, and to abide by their constitutional duty to safeguard national sovereignty and legitimacy. It appeals to everyone to immediately stop using weapons and to abolish all military manifestations which lead to disputes at the camps and outlying [formerly border] areas.

The House, along with all the sons of our people, condemns the use of force and all those who directly or indirectly fomented the sedition among the sons of the same homeland. The House demands that the executive authority take the instigators to court as soon as investigations are concluded, within one week. The House instructs the Defense and Security Committee to move to 'Imran to investigate what has taken place and to submit an urgent report to the House. [passage omitted]

Committees Discuss Situation

JN2904064394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] [words indistinct] comprising the defense and security committee and members of the council, led by brother Colonel 'Ali Muhammad 'Utrub, head of the committee. The committee held a meeting with brothers Staff Colonel 'Ali Muhammad Salah, Staff Colonel

Muhammad Haytham, Staff Colonel Muhammad Dayfallah, and all the brother members of the joint military committee. The discussion during the meeting dealt with causes of the military deterioration in 'Imran.

Moreover, the Parliamentary Committee also met with the 'Imran security (?committee). The committee and the joint military committee are still in session within the framework of the field mission delegated to it by the House of Representatives. The mission of the committee is to seriously and continuously contribute to efforts to contain the situation, save the homeland from destruction and the tragedy of sedition, and uphold the achievement of Yemeni national unity.

Salih Receives Envoy, Message From Egypt's Mubarak

JN2904054894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, last night received brother Badr Hammam, Egyptian assistant foreign minister and the envoy of Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Hammam conveyed to the brother president a message from his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The message deals with developments in our region and the efforts exerted by the brothers in Egypt to contain the political crisis and to end its regrettable repercussions, especially on the media and military levels.

The message also expresses the Egyptian president's concern over the regrettable incidents that took place at the 'Imran camp. The message stresses Egypt's concern about security and stability and about supporting the march of unity and democracy in our country and exerting all efforts to achieve this.

The brother president asked the Egyptian envoy to convey a reply to his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak reassuring him about the situation in our country. In his message, the brother president expresses his eagerness to exert every effort required to guarantee the safety of the Yemeni homeland and to foil all schemes aimed at threatening the march of security, stability, unity, and democracy in our country. The message also expresses the brother president's deep appreciation for the efforts of the brothers in Egypt, especially his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, to prevent the danger of conflicts and violence in our country and to support the march of Yemeni unity since it is a national and pan-Arab gain that cannot be relinquished at any price.

The meeting was attended by 'Atta' Hardun, the Egyptian ambassador to our country.

Saddam Said To Order Re-Formation of 'Popular Army'

PM2804151294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Saddam Re-Forms 'Popular Army'"]

[Excerpts] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has ordered the re-formation of the so-called "Popular Army," the ruling party's militia which Taha Yasin Ramadan led and which was disbanded after the end of the war with Iran. Elsewhere, Britain and France have warned Baghdad of the consequences of the attacks carried out recently against UN employees, correspondents, and foreign nationals in north Iraq. [passage omitted]

Regarding reports about the re-formation of the Popular Army in Iraq, Dr. Hamid al-Bayyati, representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], said that Saddam has issued a decision to that effect, together with instructions concerning the details and rules governing the commanders and personnel of this army, which is tantamount to a militia for the ruling party.

Dr. al-Bayyati's statement, issued by the SAIRI support office in London, a copy of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has received, said that the authorities have designated several camps to train the battalions and brigades formed recently from partisan elements, on whom Saddam's instructions "imposed voluntary service," in Popular Army formations for six to 12 months.

The statement pointed out that discontent has spread among ruling party elements. They expressed their discontent at Saddam's decision, which they believe means that the country is experiencing a serious political, military, and security crisis, and that they should expect an important event as a result of which they will become the victims of one of Saddam's whims manifested in his internal and external wars.

Dr. al-Bayyati pointed out that the Iraqi regime disbanded the Popular Army after the war with Iran because it had represented a huge financial burden for the regime and an administrative vacuum during the war. The statement added: It is also worth mentioning that, because the regime has been exposed to real dangers threatening its existence at this stage, and for the sake of staying in power, it has taken new steps to protect itself with more than one security cordon to allow it to maneuver and unleash its military forces to carry out tasks that are still shrouded in ambiguity and could be launched at any moment.

Saddam Cables King Husayn on Mother's Death

JN2804112194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Apr 94

["Text" of cable of condolences from President Saddam Husayn to "his brother" King Husayn Bin-Talal on the demise of Jordanian Queen Mother Zayn al-Sharaf; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Majesty brother King Husayn Bin-Talal: With immense sorrow, we have received the news of the demise of your majesty's mother. We pray to God to spare you any further misfortune, to bestow his full mercy on the deceased, and to endow you with patience and solace.

We are God's creatures, and to him we return.

May God's peace be upon you.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq

Saddam's Birthday Marked in Baghdad, Governorates

JN2704132794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad and the governorates today witnessed sweeping celebrations to mark the auspicious birthday of leader President Saddam Husayn, the epitome of the Iraqis' pride and the symbol of their victories.

In their celebrations, Iraqis expressed pride in the matchless leadership of struggler President Saddam Husayn. They reiterated their relentless determination to persist in their quest for progress and advancement, despite the continued aggression and the embargo clamped on the Iraqi people to undermine their sovereignty, security, and independence.

The Iraqis prayed to almighty God to protect the leader president, keep him as an asset for Iraq and the nation, and grant him success in his efforts to promote the interests of Iraq and the glorious Arab nation.

The celebrating masses reiterated their pledge to leader President Saddam Husayn to persist with their sacrifices and efforts to promote the honor and pride of great Iraq.

The celebrations included art performances, songs, and patriotic poems, which extolled mujahid president Saddam Husayn, leader of the people and the epitome of their victories, noting the victory, pride, and glory he has achieved for them.

Five Journalists Dismissed; 'Udayy's Posts Listed

PM2804113494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Apr 94 p2

[Unattributed report: " 'Udayy Dismisses Five Journalists"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—'Udayy Saddam Husayn, son of the Iraqi president, has prevented five Iraqi journalists from exercising their profession and decided to dismiss them from the the Journalists Association he heads. Among these journalists are Lutfi al-Khayyat and Ahmad Sabri, both members of the association's council. The decision came the day after the announcement in the Iraqi press that 'Udayy had been chosen as chairman of the Youth Union. This is his latest post, as he also heads the Students Union, the Journalists Association, the Olympic Committee, the Football Association, and the cultural grouping supervising the Writers Union and the Artists Union. He also heads the Saddam Engineering College and supervises Baghdad University, al-Mustansiriyah University, the Saddam Medical College, and the Scientific Research Center. He is also chairman of the meat company in al-Dawrah and the meat company in al-Mahmudiyah. In addition to the declared 13 posts he also assumes undeclared political and security tasks.

Paper Alludes to Syrians Instigating Lebanese

JN2804091394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 Apr 94 p 3

["Attention" column by Hasan al-Kashif: "Iraq and Lebanon"]

[Text] No matter how smart the parties fabricating the crisis between Iraq and Lebanon, and no matter what the official Lebanese claims and measures against Iraq are, no one is convinced that Iraq is behind all of Lebanon's problems, be they security, sovereignty, unity, stability, or the authority and efficacy of its legislative and executive institutions.

It is not Iraq that has shared Lebanon's occupation with "Israel" for almost 20 years.

It is not Iraq that imposes on Lebanon its presidents, ministers, and Arab and international policies.

It was not Iraq that bombed the Lebanese Presidential Palace at Ba'abda with its military aircraft, nor did it use its heavy artillery to shell the Lebanese Defense Ministry at al-Yarzah.

Iraq did not abduct anyone in Lebanon, nor did it assassinate Kamal Junblatt and scores of other prominent politicians, journalists, and intellectuals.

The history of the Iraqi Army is not tarnished by the crimes of the invasion and occupation of Lebanon or by the crimes of annihilating Lebanese. On the contrary, it is a history which is proud of the Iraqi Army's participation in confronting the Zionist invasion of Lebanon in 1978.

Iraq's relations with official and popular Lebanon are well known and very clean. They have always been based on respecting Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independent options. These relations have never been of the type that foster the division of the land and the people. This is well understood by all Lebanese Muslims and Christians, as well as all politicians, both the traditional ones and the leaders of the nationalist parties.

Iraq did not make a big of issue of the incident in which the enemies of Lebanon's unity and sovereignty blew up the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut in an unprecedented crime during which the Iraqi ambassador to Lebanon, several diplomats, and scores of other martyrs fell victims, although the protection of Iraqi diplomats accredited to Lebanon was the full responsibility of the Lebanese authority. Before the embassy explosion, several Iraqi officials also fell as martyrs through assassinations in Beirut in 1980 and 1981.

It is not the Iraqi armies that have occupied Lebanese territory since 1976 following an invasion blessed by Washington and Tel Aviv and in which Muslims, Christians, and Palestinians were massacred not in any clashes with the Zionist occupier, but under coexistence and full coordination with that occupier.

Iranian guards did not enter Lebanon with all their weapons and funds through Iraq and with its blessing and protection, nor did these guards set up their authority, banks, and establishments through coordination and suspicious deals with Iraq.

It was not Iraq that turned Lebanese territory into a den for terrorism, kidnapping, and blackmail operations to split a few dollars with the gangs of kidnappers who were charged with this temporary role according to certain policies and timings and for purposes which were known to the Lebanese authority which stood by like a spectator.

Are the present official Lebanese claims, measures, and accusations sufficient to hide all these facts?!

Will the smart ones in Lebanon succeed in diverting the Lebanese people's attention from the true enemies of their sovereignty and unity in Damascus and Tel Aviv, from those who are responsible for the death of the sons of Lebanon in the South, Beirut, Jabal Lubnan, the North, and al-Biqa'?!!

Lebanese shrewdness, inspired by the Damascus leaders, will not change facts. Iraq is busy with very well-known enemies, the enemies of all Arabs. Everyone has his known position and objectives.

Kuwaitis Blamed for Rejecting Dialogue Call

JN2804172294 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 Apr 94 p 1

[Editorial: "The Position of the Kuwaiti Rulers and Their Supporters and the Correct Conclusions"]

[Text] The speaker of the Kuwaiti parliament has rejected a proposal by Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, expressing the Iraqi Assembly's readiness to discuss with a Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation all outstanding issues in order to serve the Arab national cause, achieve stability, and avoid the conflicts certain well-known quarters are trying to foster.

Important facts have been revealed by the Iraqi call for dialogue and the Kuwaiti parliamentary speaker's rejection of this call. It is up to sincere and honest Arabs everywhere to draw the right conclusions from these two stands, especially in the current difficult Arab situation in which Arab national interests need earnest, sincere, and responsible endeavors to solve Arab problems through dialogue and within the Arab framework.

Any sincere and honest Arab, whether an ordinary citizen or a government official, must link the Kuwaiti parliamentary speaker's stand with ill intentions, introversion, lack of desire to solve problems through dialogue and within the Arab framework, and more open dependence on foreign powers and their trusteeship over the region.

This is nothing strange for the Kuwaiti rulers and their supporters. They created the crisis through their own policies and liaisons, refused to resolve it through dialogue within the Arab framework, and then rushed for the help of the foreigner.

Arabs, Iraqis, and Kuwaitis will recall that recent events revealed the facts that Jabir instructed Sa'd [al-'Abdallah] on the eve of the Jeddah meeting not to reach an agreement and to go to the UN Security Council, rather than use an Arab framework within the Arab League. Developments confirm how the stands of the Kuwaiti rulers and their supporters were selfish, mean, introverted, incomprehensible, and arrogant.

Those stands, which did not help Kuwait and which in fact harmed the Arab stand, were and still are contrary to the Iraqi stand. Thus, the Iraqi National Assembly's readiness for dialogue with a Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation is based on a responsible Iraqi stand that has tried by every means to resolve differences through dialogue and to find an Arab solution to the crisis that serves the higher Arab national interests and protects Arab national security.

The difference between the two stands reveals many of the facts about the previous phase and how Iraq's pan-Arab stands were serious and open-minded. Leader President Saddam Husayn presented the dispute with Kuwait during a closed session of the extraordinary Baghdad summit in a fraternal, calm, and responsible spirit marked by wisdom, courage, and patience. Iraq presented the dispute to the Arab League in a memo addressed by the Iraqi foreign minister on 16 July 1990. A day later, Iraq's leader warned in his speech on the anniversary of the 17 July revolution of the dangers of the continuous harm being done by the Kuwaiti rulers. Throughout the weeks that preceded and followed 2 August 1990, Iraq took initiatives and responded to others in order to resolve the dispute through a dialogue within an Arab framework. However, the Kuwaiti rulers and their supporters followed a course different from that of the nation and brotherhood.

Sincere and honest Arabs everywhere are facing these facts anew. They can, after all that has happened, draw the correct conclusions and call a spade a spade. The Kuwaiti rulers and their supporters still reject the resolution of these differences through dialogue within the Arab framework. By holding to that suspicious rejection and continuing to maintain an atmosphere of panic, fear, and lies to justify their alliance with the foreigner and the continued presence of U.S. forces on Kuwaiti territory, they are serving their overlords who are exploiting the Kuwaiti rulers. They will continue to be the ones who determine when and how to provoke or permit the provocation of wars and seditions and guarantee placing the region into the wolf's mouth, as leader President Saddam Husayn said on 17 July 1990.

The Kuwaiti rulers and their supporters continue on the path of crisis, divisions, and dispute, while Iraq continues its honest and responsible pan-Arab stands which sincerely seek to resolve all outstanding issues and serve the Arab cause.

This makes it the duty of honest men in Kuwait and sincere and honest Arabs everywhere to confront the Kuwaiti rulers' suspect course, which is doing more harm to the region and the nation.

'Peace Package' To Be Presented to al-Asad Detailed

TA2904105494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Apr 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by Aluf Ben and Gay Bekhor]

[Excerpt] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will meet today twice with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and will hear from him the details of the "peace package" Israel is offering Syria. Christopher leaves for Damascus tomorrow to present the Israeli proposal to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The following are the components of the peace package: an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights; setting up of full peace and full relations; security arrangements on the Golan; implementation of the arrangements in stages over several years; an exchange of ambassadors between Damascus and Jerusalem after the initial withdrawal stage. Israel will suggest to Syria to start deliberations in joint working groups on the details of the arrangement.

The package that will be handed over to Christopher will not detail the withdrawal line and will focus on Israel's security needs within the framework of the arrangement with Syria on the Golan, and in a parallel agreement to be signed with the United States, which will pledge to strengthen Israel. In his talks with Christopher, the prime minister will request that the Israeli-U.S. agreement will accord Israel security guarantees and will assure maintaining current aid levels, as well as the supply of advanced weaponry and intelligence information from satellites to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The defense establishment is at present working on the list of requests to be made to the Americans.

The package to be presented to Christopher will include the principles of each of the components of the arrangement. The security arrangement will include deep demilitarization of the Syrian side and less deep demilitarization by Israel, thinning out of forces on both sides, the setting up of early warning stations on the Golan, and deployment of an international force on the plateau to supervise the arrangement.

Rabin will also reiterate his call to al-Asad to take public steps to assist in legitimizing the agreement among the Israeli public.

Israel expects progress in the arrangement with Syria to bring about simultaneous progress in the peace process with Jordan, Lebanon, and the other Arab states, except for Iraq, Iran, and Libya. [passage omitted]

Details of Rabin-Christopher Meeting Reported

TA2904090394 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] The meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher ended at the prime minister's bureau in Tel Aviv a short while ago. During the meeting, Rabin again complained about Syria's refusal to enact confidence-building measures while continuing to demand a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Our correspondent Sefi Hendler reports from the prime minister's bureau in Tel Aviv:

[Begin recording] [Hendler] The Americans and the Israelis split up into three working groups. One group, dealing with the Syrian track, is headed on the Israeli side by Itamar Rabinovich. In the second group, dealing with Lebanon, Israel is represented by Uri Lubrani. Israel's representative in the third group, dealing with the Jordanian track, is Elyaqim Rubinstein. Prime Minister Rabin proposed that the group of officials attending the meeting split up into three smaller working teams and return for a concluding discussion in the presence of Foreign Minister Peres, Secretary of State Christopher, and Prime Minister Rabin at 1600 [1300 GMT]. Statements will apparently be released to the media following this afternoon's meeting.

During this morning's meetings, Rabin made several remarks. The prime minister briefed Christopher on Israel's plans for the continuation of the talks with Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. The prime minister reiterated that Syria's maximalist demands for a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights had not been accompanied by any confidence-building measures vis a vis Israel. This was not right, the prime minister asserted. Rabin also mentioned two problems related to terrorism that Israel was currently facing. Raising the problem of Hizballah terrorism in Lebanon, the prime minister stressed that Hizballah was intentionally shelling Christian villages. Obviously, Rabin also spoke of Palestinian terrorism in the territories and specified in general the type of security arrangements Israel wanted on the Golan Heights. These are the initial details. The working groups are currently holding discussions and the prime minister will meet Warren Christopher again at 1600. [end recording]

Officials Deny 'Majdal Shams First' Proposal

TA2904114894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Residents of the Druze settlements on the Golan Heights are saying they have learned from various sources in Syria that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will deliver an Israeli proposal to Damascus entitled Majdal Shams First. The proposal suggests that during the first stage, Syria be given sovereignty and control over the four Druze settlements on the Golan Heights.

Our correspondents Nati Zilberman and Hayim Hecht report that the Druze villagers on the Golan Heights are already preparing for such a possibility.

Officials at the Prime Minister's Office, at the Foreign Ministry, and in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] denied any plans for a withdrawal from Majdal Shams first. Our correspondents nevertheless report that the maps prepared by the General Staff contain several possible options for the transfer of the Druze villages to Syrian control.

Peres Confirms 4 May as Target Date for Signing

TA2804160794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by 'Anat Davidov and political correspondent Shlomo Raz; place not given—live]

[Text] [Davidov] Good evening, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good evening.

[Davidov] Have all sides agreed that 4 May is the date on which the agreement will be signed?

[Peres] That 4 May is the target date, yes.

[Raz] We have received reports saying that two issues remain open: the area of Jericho and the policeman on the bridge. What about the other issues, concerning which the sides had apparently agreed in advance that they should be concluded after the agreement is signed—currency, transit documents, international presence? What is the situation with these issues?

[Peres] We have agreed on most issues. There are two or three issues on which I hope we will agree later today.

[Raz] When do you plan to return home, then?

[Peres] Tomorrow morning, I think.

[Raz] Since you originally planned to stay there till Saturday night, the negotiations must be almost concluded.

[Peres] I planned to stay on if necessary, but today was fruitful, we put in many hours, and Christopher and Mubarak's participation in the negotiations was definitely a help.

[Raz] What about Gaza roads? I understand there were disagreements on that issue, too.

[Peres] Gaza roads were not discussed.

[Raz] Then I understand this issue is also concluded.

[Peres] Yes. Whatever was achieved during the previous Cairo talks is still valid.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, can we then say with near certainty or with total certainty that the Israeli-PLO agreement will be signed on 4 May?

[Peres] We can speak of reasonable likelihood, as they say, that it may be signed on 4 May, but we should leave room for doubt until the last minute.

[Raz] Let us move on to Syria, then. Christopher is arriving here tomorrow. I assume the Syrian track will be the main issue on the agenda with him.

[Peres] Yes. Tonight we will attempt to conclude all the outstanding issues, and I assume that tomorrow the Syrian chapter will be launched.

[Raz] What will happen on that track? Will Christopher achieve a dramatic development on the Syrian track as well during his present Middle East tour?

[Peres] I cannot promise anything. First of all, there is a difference between the concluding and the opening stages. With the Palestinians, we are close to conclusion, while with Syria, we have not even reached the opening stage. Therefore, we cannot speak of a breakthrough.

[Raz] Do you mean that with the Syrians, we are still at a stage prior to....

[Peres, interrupting] We are at a ground-breaking stage.

[Davidov] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] You are welcome. Shalom.

Netanyahu: Agreement With PLO 'Worst' Ever Signed

TA2804191994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] In a first reaction to the Israel-PLO agreement, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said: This is the worst political agreement ever signed by an Israeli prime minister. Netanyahu added that Rabin is establishing a bona fide state for 'Arafat, and even helping him to set up an armed terrorist army.

[Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 28 April adds that reacting to the news of the Israel-PLO agreement, "Tzomet Chairman Refa'el Eytan said: This is a dark day for Israel. Today the government gave terrorists license to launch an open war.

["Moshe Qatzav, the Likud faction chairman, said: Peres and Sarid are leading to the establishment of the Palestinian state Rabin professes to oppose. The Likud wants the government to present all the agreements signed with the Palestinians to the Knesset."]

IDF To Complete Withdrawal 10-14 Days After Signing

TA2804201094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho will begin immediately after the 4 May signing ceremony with the Palestinians in Cairo. The agreement is to be signed by Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat.

Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the IDF has already evacuated 95 percent of the equipment it plans to take out. The redeployment is to continue for 10 to 14 days.

IDF Sources on Importance of Hamas-Fatah Agreement

TA2904051594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources said that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Fatah have moved closer together recently. This process is important and consequential for Israel as well. The sources said that the rapprochement between the two organizations came against the background of Hamas attempts to share control of the autonomy institutions.

The understandings between the two organizations were reached in a bid to reduce internecine fighting during the sensitive period when the Palestinians assume authority over the autonomous areas. The sources attribute great importance to the prevention of internecine fighting between the two organizations and say that an agreement between them could lead to a reduction in terrorism and violence in the Gaza Strip.

Army Approves 10 Armed Bodyguards for Fatah Leaders

TA2604174494 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Apr 94 pp 1, 8

[Report by Aharon Klein]

[Text] Some 10 armed bodyguards have been recently assigned to protect Fatah leaders in the Gaza Strip. The step had been approved by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the defense establishment. The bodyguards received personal handguns, which had been purchased by Palestinians after receiving special Israeli approval. The decision to approve the employment of armed bodyguards was made in the wake of an explicit Palestinian request. In discussions with senior IDF officers, senior Fatah officials explained they had to protect themselves against assassination attempts by peace-opposing organizations.

The defense establishment's approval was granted on the strict condition that the bodyguards should only fire for protection and that they would not exhibit their weapons in public. The bodyguards have been issued appropriate permits. It should be noted that before the handguns were handed to the bodyguards, they were registered and ballistically tested.

New Commander Suspends Activity of IDF Squads

TA2704112494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Apr 94 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command, has ordered suspension of the activity of the squads operating against stone throwers in the West Bank. These squads were set up during the tenure of Major General Nehemya Tamari in order to apprehend stone throwers, including opening fire when necessary. The squads operated for several months, until the military advocate-general sent a letter instructing clarification of the orders relating to their operation.

The activity of the squads was resumed when Major General Dani Yatom was appointed temporary commander of the Central Command, and was occasionally halted on the basis of operational considerations. Major General Sha'ul Mufaz, commander of the IDF forces in the West Bank, renewed the activity of the squads several months ago. Maj. Gen. Biran ordered to suspend their operation several days after he entered office.

Central Command sources said Maj. Gen. Biran implemented this move in order to avoid unnecessary firing. They said Biran is checking all the standing orders relating to the Central Command, mainly open-fire orders, issued during the tenures of Yatom and Tamari.

An army source said "Biran is examining every order given in the Central Command and canceling those he does not approve of." If necessary, Biran will issue out new instructions.

The military sources add that Maj. Gen. Biran has held meetings with the Central Command's senior officers, including the division and brigade commanders, and visited the sensitive areas of the West Bank in order to get personally acquainted with the various spheres relating to his new post.

Detentions of Oppositionists in Strip Continues

TA2904112494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Apr 94 p 6

[Report by David Regev]

[Excerpt] The wave of detentions against opponents of the peace process in the Gaza Strip continues. Twenty-five Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists in the Strip were arrested over the past 24 hours by the security forces, Arab sources reported yesterday.

According to the sources, the activists were detained in their homes and the security forces also visited the homes of 15 activists and fugitives who were not at home, and demanded their relatives give them up. Among those detained were Shaykh Nafar A'zam, 40, of Rafah, an Islamic Jihad leader who was put under administrative detention for six months. A'zam was released several weeks ago after a long period of imprisonment.

A senior activist of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Walid al-Rul, 40, of al-Shati', was put under administrative detention for six months for the ninth time. Arab sources said he has been under detention for 53 months running.

Khalil Bal'awi, 24, a Hamas wanted man, was captured by security forces in Gaza yesterday. Bal'awi is suspected of terrorist activity against the security forces, including firing at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrols. [passage omitted]

Poll Conducted on Uprooting Settlements for Peace

TA2904105794 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Apr 94 p 1

[Poll by the Dafah Institute headed by Dr. Mina Zemah]

[Text] The prime minister said: "Peace is more important for Israel's future and security than this or that group of settlements." Do you agree or disagree with that statement?

Agree: 51 percent; Disagree: 45 percent; No comment: 4 percent.

The prime minister continued: "I supported and will continue to support the removal of Golan settlements for the sake of peace." Do you agree or disagree with that position?

Agree: 39 percent; Disagree: 58 percent; No comment: 3 percent.

In your opinion, should the prime minister have made those remarks in public?

Should have: 50 percent; Should not have: 47 percent; No comment:

3 percent.

The poll was conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday among 547 interviewees, which make up a representative example of the adult population. Maximum margin of error is 4 percent.

Two Israeli Arabs Held for Alleged Role in Hadera

TA2604113194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] The Haifa District Court has lifted the ban on reporting the detention of two Israeli Arabs, residents of West Barta'ah, suspected of aiding the terrorist who perpetrated the attack at Hadera's central bus station.

The two—'Atif Kabaha, 46, and Majid Kabaha, 48—are suspected of driving the terrorist from East Barta'ah in the territories to Hadera's central bus station under orders from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in return for money. The court extended their remand for another 15 days. They are not cooperating with the police. Our correspondent Nati Silberman notes that the police take a grave view of cooperation between Israeli Arabs and terrorists.

Two Soldiers Wounded by Arab Attacker in Jerusalem

TA2704172694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Two soldiers have been stabbed and wounded, one moderately and one lightly, at the entrance to the Jerusalem mall in Mallaha. The assailant, an East Jerusalem Arab, was captured at the site. Mark Weiss reports.

[Begin Weiss recording] The attack occurred just before 1700 [1400 GMT], during the busy afternoon shopping period. The attacker, an Arab from the East Jerusalem village of Jabal al-Mukabar, stabbed two soldiers close to a bus stop at the entrance to the mall. [passage omitted]

The two soldiers were rushed to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital and both were treated for stab wounds in the shoulder. The condition of one was described as moderate and the other one was suffering from light wounds. The assailant was chased by police, security staff, and civilians and captured carrying the knife. [end recording]

[Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 27 April adds that "the terrorist belongs to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. A few months ago he was detained on suspicion of participating in riots and was later released until the beginning of his trial."

Also, "An Arab woman was shot and critically wounded when she tried to stab a soldier in the center of Gaza. The soldier was not hurt."]

China Offers Coal, Might Cooperate on Electricity

TA2404151294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Israel and China might cooperate on technologies to manufacture electricity, it was reported today during a tour by China's minister for electric power industry to Hadera's electric power station. Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that China is interested in selling coal to Israel, however Moshe Katz, director of the Israel Electric Corporation, told his Chinese guest that the quality of the coal he is offering is good, but too expensive.

Memorandum Signed

TA2704140694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Israel and China signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate in the energy field. Our correspondent Arye Schorr reports that Israel might buy coal in China for the Israel Electricity Corporation and an experimental shipment will arrive here within several days.

China is interested in technology to produce electricity from solar energy and from oil shale developed in Israel, as well as cooperation with a cable company to manufacture electricity cables in China. The memorandum was signed by Energy Minister Moshe Shahal and the Chinese electric power industry minister, who is visiting Israel.

Foreign Dignitaries Pay Respects to Queen Mother

Saudi Crown Prince, Minister Cable King

JN2804192994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] His majesty the king has received the following cable of condolences from 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister, and chief of the Saudi Arabia National Guard:

His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Amman,

I have received the news of the death of your majesty's mother. As I express to you, your brothers, and all members of your family my heartfelt condolences, I pray to God almighty to have mercy on her soul and to make paradise her final abode.

We are from God and to him we shall return.

[Signed] 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, crown prince, deputy prime minister and chief of the Saudi Arabia National Guard.

His majesty also received the following cable of condolences from Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal:

His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Amman,

I have received the news of the death of your majesty's mother. As I express to your majesty and to all members of your family my heartfelt condolences, I pray to God almighty to have mercy on her soul and to make paradise her final abode.

We are from God and to him we shall return.

[Signed] Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of Saudi Arabia.

Al-Asad Meets With King

JN2804160894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at al-Nadwah Palace today—in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan—His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, and his delegation. President al-Asad expressed in his own name and on behalf of the fraternal Syrian people heartfelt condolences to His Majesty King Husayn and the honorable Hashemite family on the death of Her Majesty Queen Zayn al-Sharaf, the Queen Mother.

President al-Asad prayed to God almighty to have mercy on her soul, to grant his majesty and the honorable Hashemite family patience and consolation, and to preserve his majesty from every evil.

His Majesty King Husayn expressed his heartfelt appreciation to his excellency for coming personally to offer condolences, asking God to preserve his excellency and the fraternal Syrian people from every evil.

King Husayn and President al-Asad exchanged views on sisterly bilateral relations, asserting the need to deepen these relations through continuous cooperation and coordination in the service of both people's interests, the nation's issues, and the future of its generations.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and the king's advisers. For Syria, the meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Information Minister Muhammad Salman.

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and the accompanying delegation left Amman this afternoon. He was seen off by His Majesty King Husayn and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan. Also present were Their Royal Highnesses Princes 'Abdallah, Faysal, and 'Ali, the king's sons; His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, the king's military secretary; His Royal Highness Prince Rashid Bin- Hasan; Their Royal Highnesses Princes Hamzah and Hashim, the king's sons; Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, prime minister; the speakers of the Senate and the House of Representatives; His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Court; ministers; the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and senior civilian and military officials.

King Receives Iraqi Envoy

JN2804162094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] In the presence of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon Khalid 'Abd-al-Mun'im Rashid al-Janabi, His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's adviser and envoy. The Iraqi envoy conveyed to his Majesty King Husayn and the esteemed Hashemite family the condolences of His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and the fraternal Iraqi people on the death of the late Queen Mother Zayn al-Sharaf. Al-Janabi prayed to God to bestow his mercy on the deceased, to permit her into his heavens, and to give his majesty and the esteemed Hashemite family patience and solace.

PLO Delegation Conveys Condolences

JN2804193894 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] His majesty the king received a PLO delegation which arrived to offer its sympathy to the royal family. The delegation, comprising PLO Executive Committee Member 'Abbas Zaki and Palestinian Ambassador in Amman al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, conveyed to his majesty the king the condolences of the Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian leadership.

Government Stand on Port Land Inspection Viewed

JN2804185494 Amman AL-AHALI in Arabic 28 Apr 94 p 3

["AL-AHALI Opinion" column: "We Are Not A Gate To Tighten The Siege of Iraq"]

[Text] We have condemned the U.S. aggression against the Port of al-'Aqabah and considered it a manifestation of the comprehensive hostile policy against the whole region. This falls within the framework of the attempts aimed at imposing a new regional order under U.S. tutelage and hegemony. We also cannot find an excuse for entrenching—with our approval—this aggression against our national sovereignty under the pretext of conducting land inspection.

We want an answer to this simple question: Is there a decision to monitor, besiege, or inspect Jordan? We know there is no decision in this regard; and the UN Sanctions Committee says there is no such decision. The Americans are the ones who are imposing the siege, and the evidence is clear. The talks to lift the siege are being held with U.S. envoys—the last of whom was Secretary of State Christopher—not with Butrus-Ghali or with the president of the Security Council as the Iraqi brothers are doing.

We wanted the government to champion the opinion of the people, not only the interests of some importers and merchants who are harmed by U.S. piracy. We were ready to fight together in one trench to confront the U.S. aggression against Jordan. The government's view, however, was different. It opted for the policy of ostrich in front of the U.S. hyena, thereby ignoring the view of the people and their political forces as well as the good reputation of our country on the international level.

Warren Christopher's statements in London aroused anger and resentment because he linked these measures with tightening the siege of Iraq. Do they want Jordan to become a barrier in the face of Iraq or a gate to ease the burdens of the unjust siege imposed on the people who have always been generous with Jordan, Syria, and Palestine and who watered the soil of these countries with the blood of their martyrs?

The policy of weakness and hiding heads in the sand will only lead to more humiliation and disgrace. We are not like that and we will not be like that. We will continue to resist the policy of capitulation and normalization. We will never agree to seeing Jordan become a passageway for U.S.-Israeli peace regardless of the sacrifices.

Ministry 'Source,' Deputies View Christopher Tour

JN2804140194 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 27-28 Apr 94 p 4

[By Munjid al-Namirat]

[Excerpt] The chief U.S. diplomat has begun his tour of the region by meeting in London with His Majesty King Husayn. This meeting ended the debate over a final solution of the blockade enforced against al-'Aqabah, from which Jordan has suffered for the past four years.

The Jordanian side, through King Husayn, and the U.S. side, through Warren Christopher, announced the blockade problem will be resolved soon, and that sea-based inspections will be replaced by land-based inspections at the Port of al-'Aqabah to be conducted by the British company, Lloyds Register. .

The U.S. secretary of state has solved one of the crises his Middle East tour is designed to resolve as part of his efforts to reactivate the Middle East multilateral peace talks.

Christopher will continue his tour of the region by heading to Riyadh, Cairo, and Tel Aviv. It is possible he might visit Lebanon, as several news agencies have reported. But, he will not stop in Amman.

An authorized Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs source has told AKHIR KHABAR that Christopher's plan not to visit Jordan can in no way create any difficulties, because the meeting between him and his majesty the king in London achieved the purpose of any visit to Jordan he might make. Meanwhile, several parliamentarians have reiterated that political factors were behind Christopher's decision not to visit Jordan. They ruled out the possibility that the U.S. secretary of state's plan not to visit Jordan came about at Jordan's request.

For his part, Muhammad Dawudiyah, member of the House of Representatives, said it is good that Christopher is not visiting Jordan. He argued that the United States, given its sponsorship of the Middle East peace talks, must demonstrate impartiality. But, it is not doing so. He added: I believe demonstrations would be staged in the country if Christopher stopped in Jordan. He did not rule out the possibility that a Jordanian request might have been behind Christopher's decision not to visit Amman.

Fawzi Tu'aymah [member of the Jordanian House of Representatives], said: Some reasons pertaining to the peace process might have been behind Christopher's decision not to visit Amman. I cannot determine these reasons. Nonetheless, Christopher's recent statements have underscored the good Jordanian- U.S. ties. [passage omitted]

SLA Commander: No Objections to Joining Lebanese Army

TA2604185994 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Excerpts] General Antoine Lahd, commander of the SLA [South Lebanese Army], says his army has already prepared for the possibility that in the near future it will remain alone, that is, that Israel will leave Lebanon in the framework of a peace arrangement. These remarks were made during an inauguration ceremony of a hospital built by Israel in the Shiite village of Bint Jubayl at the cost of $1 million. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz reports from the north.

[Begin Horowitz recording] [passage omitted] Gen. Antoine Lahd, who met Israeli correspondents prior to the ceremony, said that the SLA has no objections to joining the Lebanese Army in future.

Over the last year Israel provided $7 million in civilian aid to the residents of south Lebanon's security zone. In this hospital in Bint Jubayl alone Israel invested $1 million. Israel wants to prove to south Lebanon's population—mainly the Shiites—that despite the political negotiations Israel will continue to provide them with all possible aid. [end recording]

LF Personnel Reportedly Fleeing East Beirut

NC2904102594 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 25 Apr 94 p 9

[Text] According to reports from the occupied south, the township of Marj 'Uyun is currently teeming with arrivals from East Beirut. The reports add that the new arrivals are being provided with housing for a prolonged stay.

The reports note that the area's residents say that the arrivals are members and cadres of the Lebanese Forces who have come there following the dissolution of their party in the wake of their involvement in a series of explosions, including the bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Zuq Mikha'il.

Although the reports do not indicate the number of those arriving, they nevertheless mention that many of them have arrived in the nearby villages and towns as well. The same reports say that some of the arrivals are carrying out military and security activities and are roaming the areas with light weapons. It is not yet clear whether the new arrivals will join the army of agent Antoine Lahd—which has since 1987 banned any political or military entity from operating outside its jurisdiction—or if they will open offices run by the Lebanese Forces and with the support of Israel. The reports say the Lebanese forces will either be deployed along the combat lines facing the liberated southern areas or they will foment seditious acts.

Villages Shelled; 'Lahd' Patrol Attacked

NC2804173794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Excerpts] The villages of Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Mazra'at al-Hamra', Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, and the al-Litani River basin came under violent and concentrated shelling by Israeli artillery in al-Zaffat and al-Tayyibah at 1645 this afternoon. The Israeli occupation troops strafed the forests close to the al-Litani River basin with machine-gun fire. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Resistance, in a statement released in al-Nabatiyah this afternoon, announced that the martyr Yusuf Harb group at 1645 today ambushed a patrol from the Lahd militias [South Lebanese Army] while passing along the dirt road between 'Alman and al-Shumariyah. The group members destroyed an armored personnel carrier and killed and wounded those inside it. Following the operation, clashes ensued between the resistance fighters and the patrol members in which various types of weapons were used. The occupation troops' artillery in al-Zaffat and the enemy tanks in al-Tayyibah joined the battle.

President al-Asad Returns From Amman

JN2804160294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad returned to Damascus this afternoon at the end of a visit to Amman during which he offered his sincere condolences to His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and His Highness Hasan Bin-Talal, the crown prince, and the royal family on the death of Queen Zayn al-Sharaf, the queen mother.

At the end of the visit, His Majesty King Husayn, and His Highness Prince Hasan accompanied the president from the royal palace to Amman's airport, where they led those who saw him off. [passage omitted]

Expectations Surrounding Christopher Visit Viewed

JN2804151094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Apr 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Results of the Test Will Not Change," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Israel's rulers always precede U.S. envoys' visits to the region with intensified media campaigns designed to throw dust in the eyes of the international community, creating the deceptive impression that Israel is being flexible and that it is willing to pay the price of peace.

AL-BA'TH adds: In light of Warren Christopher's current visit to the region, Israel sparked and guided a media campaign throughout the world to cast the rulers of Israel in a favorable light, portraying them as taking peaceful regional initiatives. At the same time, this media campaign seeks to portray Syria as the party that fails to offer initiatives, or what the rulers of Israel call concessions for peace.

The paper explains that mere talk about Israel's willingness to abandon the settlements within an unspecifiied period, in accordance with a list of Israeli demands and conditions, in no way changes the problem on the Syrian-Israeli track of the peace process. The paper says the obstacle to progress in the peace talks is Israel's refusal to announce its acceptance of the resolutions of international legitimacy by withdrawing from all occupied Syrian Arab territories. The peace talks will not progress without full withdrawal.

The paper says Syria, as President Hafiz al-Asad has said, accepted the bases of the peace process. It is willing to offer full peace in return for full withdrawal. Syria is not avoiding a just and comprehensive peace. It has always sought this peace and is sincerely cooperating with the United States for its sake.

AL-BA'TH concludes: There can be no peace without the return of all the territories, not just part of them. The territories cannot be divided, diminished, or replaced. The exercise of any kind of pressure, intimidation, deception, and threats by any party is a method that has been tried and tested more than once. The results have never changed.

Under the headline "The Fact," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Perhaps the most outstanding fact all observers realize is that the peace process needs new momentum. A propelling force has been lost due to Israel's continued intransigence, procrastination, and time wasting, all designed to entrench facts on the ground, like the partial agreements it concluded with the Palestinian side in Oslo and Cairo. AL-THAWRAH adds: New momentum requires an effective U.S. role in accordance with United States' commitments as an honest partner in the peace process, which was originally based on a U.S. initiative founded on the UN Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

AL-THAWRAH discusses Israeli intransigence and its role in blocking progress in the peace process. The paper says the policy of deception and prevarication resulting from Israel's violation on the Palestinian track—a track that has become the prisoner of a separate and partial agreement—is the outcome of secret hallway negotiations outside the peace process. Because of this policy, the peace process is fraught with dangers.

The paper says Israel wants only the formal activation of the peace process, via the formal U.S. role regrettably expressed by Warren Christopher before his arrival in the region. This was in noticeable contrast to the optimistic statements that used to precede each of his visits to the region. The paper continues: Today, there is no way to hide from the fact that it is a priority to translate the U.S. admission of Syria's central role into reality. The paper demands an effective U.S. role in order to implement the UN Security Council resolutions. The U.S. Administration has been committed to this role. It should manifest this in its behavior and on the diplomatic and political levels. This is what the peace process needs to avoid remaining the prisoner of Israeli intransigence.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by asking: Does Christopher realize that the ball is still in the Israeli court? Is he bringing any indication of the effective U.S. role that will put the peace process back on track toward a just and comprehensive peace?

Press Views Boycott of Israel, Christopher's Tour

JN2904085294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Press review]

[Text] Today's newspapers highlight the need to maintain the Arab boycott of Israel until its causes are removed. They also discuss U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's current tour of the region.

In one of its commentaries, AL-THAWRAH discusses the importance of the Arab boycott of Israel and the attempts to end the boycott.

The paper says: What amazing logic that calls for canceling the Arab boycott of Israel before reversing the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories and its consequences!

The paper notes that the Arab boycott was a natural result and a position adopted by the Arabs in self-defense in the face of Israel's aggressive policy and its expansionist ambitions toward the Arab nation.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Israel has not changed its function and role in the service of expansionist ambitions, based on plundering the wealth of the Arab nation and undermining its political and economic status. Canceling the boycott, therefore, while Israel continues to adopt an aggressive policy, has two aims: Stripping the Arabs of their right to use the boycott as a legitimate weapon in the face of Israel's ambitions and aggressive policy; and sabotaging the peace process and efforts for peace.

Concluding, the paper says: Israel's policy, in all its manifestations, is the only reason that the Arabs, primarily Syria, adhere to the Arab boycott as a regimen to immunize Arab existence against the danger of Israel's inclination for expansion and aggression. Developments on the ground have proven that Israel will never abandon this inclination, even under the peace process and efforts to make it succeed.

On the same issue, AL-BA'TH says: In order to prevent the peace process from becoming divorced from its objectives, there is now a pressing need to rectify the course of this process since the Rabin government has tried to derail the process and distort the basic substance through a series of attempts to circumvent the issues. These attempt began in Madrid and are still continuing today.

AL-BA'TH says it is the role of the U.S. secretary, who is visiting the region to intensify his efforts, on behalf of his administration that sponsors the peace process, to advance this process.

AL-BA'TH stresses Syria's full right to give its frank opinion, as usual, and to give a final say on the course of the peace process, particularly regarding a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and the rest of the occupied Arab territories.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH stresses that Syria's demands have never departed from the foundations of the peace process, which was launched on the basis of international legitimacy and relevant UN resolutions.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH speaks about U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, asking the world and the U.S. Administration to identify the party that is obstructing the peace process and pushing it toward a dead end, and to take action to deter that party.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the political process lacks vitality and vigor because of the continued Israeli policy of maneuvering and that sincere efforts need to be made now to press for the implementation of UN resolutions and the exchange of land for peace. The paper asks Washington to quickly fulfill its obligations and pledges so as not to undermine its credibility.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by stressing the constant principles in Syria's policy and its sincere attitude toward peace and adherence to its just demands to preserve our national and pan-Arab rights and ensure their return in full.

Paper Supports Lebanon on Iraqi 'Sabotage'

JN2604203194 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 16 Apr 94 p 8

["Opinion" column by 'Izz al-Din Darwish: "New Crime by Iraqi Regime"]

[Text] The murder of the Iraqi opposition figure, Shaykh Talib al-Suhayl al-Tamimi, is still alive on the political and judicial levels in Lebanon, especially after Iraqi diplomats confessed to the murder.

Preliminary investigations prove the assassination was carried out by direct orders from Baghdad and that a large sabotage network, including diplomats, carried out the operation.

Perhaps it is not unusual for the Iraqi regime to carry out such practices because it relies on methods of killing and bodily liquidation as official policy, even inside Iraq. The question is: What could the Iraqi regime reap from such murder?

The deceased shaykh had lived in Lebanon for a long time. Lebanese circles say he respected the principles governing his presence as a guest and was not a direct threat to the Iraqi regime, although he devoted his life to serving his people's causes.

It is indeed very sad for Iraqis to see their regime implementing these murders. But the fact remains that the Iraqi regime continues to live in isolation, outside the contemporary world. It is futile even to imagine that there is any possibility that this regime will behave differently and stop its ugly methods, known to Iraqis, Arabs, and foreigners alike.

Iraqis are sad and indignant because of the crimes committed by their regime. This is indisputable. They are not just witnessing what is happening, but are confronting it with the means at their disposal, waiting for the right opportunity.

It is unacceptable and unreasonable for conditions in Iraq to continue as they are now and for the regime to

continue gambling with the fate of the land and people, after all the disasters it brought to them over the past years—disasters whose humiliating results are impossible to comprehend.

Nevertheless, the Iraqi regime continues to dispatch sabotage, sedition, and killing missions without doing anything positive about Iraq, which is now under trusteeship and whose people are suffering pain and want.

Many strings connected with al-Suhayl's murder have been unraveled. The Iraqi charge d'affaires in Beirut himself heard what the detained diplomats said about the murder and the instructions they had received directly from Baghdad.

Lebanon has regained its strength and unity. It has said it will not allow sabotage gangs, whether they are Israeli or are linked with the Saddam regime, to carry out acts of killing and terrorism on its territory, that all the vicious acts will be referred to the law so the killers will take the punishment they deserve.

Talks With Jordanian Transportation Companies End

JN2804110694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Minutes of meetings held by the General Assembly of the Syrian-Jordanian Maritime Navigation Company and the General Assembly of the Syrian-Jordanian Land Transport Company were signed at the Ministry of Transportation this evening.

The minutes were signed for the Syrian side by Minister of Transportation Dr. Mufid 'Abd-al-Karim and for the Jordanian side by Minister of Transport Adib Halasah.

After the signing, Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim announced the conclusion of the meetings. He said that the two companies are true witnesses of the importance of joint Arab action which President Hafiz al-Asad and King Husayn support and seek to achieve, develop, and entrench for the benefit of all the Arabs.

For his part, Jordanian Transport Minister Adib Halasah expressed his hopes to continue joint action and wished the people in Syria and Jordan continuous growth and strength under the leaderships of President Hafiz al-Asad and King Husayn.

Country Said Seeking 'New Alliances' in Arab World

PM2504152894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Syria Conducting Negotiations To Forge New Alliances"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed sources in London which are in direct contact with the Middle East crisis have pointed out that there have recently been numerous indications that new Syrian alliances may emerge in the region because of the developments concerning the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

The sources said that, as the United States supplied Israel with weapons and offered nothing to serve the peace process, Syria has begun to look once again for allies to supply it with spare parts and weapons and work again to achieve the military and strategic parity it had started, that is within new Arab alliances that could surprise the Arab world.

The sources pointed out that Syria will overturn the equation in its relations, which will center on its interests that secures power for it in the Middle East region. And that it is currently making secret contacts with Arab parties with which it has had strained relations in the past.

The sources said that what justifies this is that Syria has begun to be subjected to great pressures to accept concessions in its demands vis-a-vis Israel's withdrawal from the Golan and the occupied Arab territories. And Damascus has begun to urge the elimination of Arab differences and the restoration of cohesion among the Arab states.

Afghanistan

Rockets Fired at Kabul Kill 21

LD2804175094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] While the people of Kabul were busy celebrating the second anniversary of the Islamic revolution victory, the Golboddin-Dostam militia martyred 21 citizens by firing blind rockets. According the report of the Kabul garrison command, the Golboddin-Dostam militia fired last night and today 116 rockets and mortar mines at Kabul city. As a result, 21 citizens of Kabul were martyred and another 32 were injured. Those injured were quickly transferred to the nearest hospitals and medical clinics for treatment. Material losses were also inflicted on the people; 13 residential houses in various regions of the city were demolished. As a result of the landing of one rocket, several children were martyred while they were carrying drinking water for their homes. Their bodies were mutilated and scattered long distances. Another rocket hit a bus killing a number of passengers; they were coming to the city to buy foodstuffs.

Fighting in Baghlan Province Continues

LD2804204894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] In an interview with IRNA on Thursday, a spokesman for the Afghan Hezb-e Eslami said: Fighting between the forces of the Afghan Islamic Revolution Coordination Council and the forces loyal to the president of that country in Baghlan Province is sill continuing.

He said that a sector has been surrounded by the opposition forces and important roads leading to that area have fallen into the hands of the forces of the Coordination Council.

Rabbani Speech Marks Anniversary of Revolution

LD2804223394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1630 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Speech by President Borhanoddin Rabbani, marking second anniversary of the Islamic revolution; place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Faithful and free compatriots of the country, heirs of the blood of martyrs and guards of the Islamic revolution, brothers and sisters, peace and the blessings of God be on you [preceding nine words spoken in Arabic], and infinite praise to the nurturer of the universe who helped the proud and infidel-crushing Afghan nation in their bloody war and holy jihad to confront the aggressor and arrogant red forces, which like a demon generated fear and terror in the world, inflicting a defeat which opened a new chapter of campaign and uprising in the history of the struggle of the peace-loving and freedom-loving people.

Sawr 8th, which corresponds with the victory of the Islamic revolution in our country, revives the memory of the great resurrection of our nation and of more than 14 years of jihad and liberation struggle by every compatriot. On this very day two years ago the sound of God is Great [preceding three words spoken in Arabic] echoed far and wide in this land of heroes and the splendid flag of monotheism was unfurled. On this day the mojahedin of Afghanistan and the entire warrior and believer nation saw for themselves the fruit of jihad and the promise of God, and our people were freed from the degrading communist culture and from ideological and social degradation.

On this occasion I would like to present my cordial congratulations to you, the free and heroic nation which demonstrated steadfastness, fortitude, and resistance and which eventually bravely achieved the victory of the Islamic revolution. Sawr 8th opened a new chapter in the ancient history of Afghanistan, and without doubt future generations across the Islamic, free, independent, united, and unified Afghanistan will celebrate this day as the dearest blood-price of the fighters on the path of righteousness and monotheism with jubilation and enthusiasm.

It is appropriate that on such a day we should mark the second anniversary of our Islamic revolution, to honor the victory of the revolution as the blood-price of the martyrs of Islam and freedom in their tulip-colored shrouds and pray for the souls of those brave free men of this land who raised the flag of monotheism and guarded our independence and national sovereignty with their pure blood. We pray that God will make paradise their abode and residence.

There is no doubt that the Afghan jihad brought great changes in the world. in the interest of peace and freedom. One result of this is the independence of many countries who lived, directly or indirectly, for many years under [word indistinct] of the former Soviet Union. The international system of communism as a base of [words indistinct] terror and colonialism disappeared. The Berlin wall in the heart of Europe fell, [words indistinct] and the period of the cold war ended, and a new era of understanding among countries and continents began.

The 14-year jihad of the people of Afghanistan and its great international impact, which is called [words indistinct] of the century, cost our nation very dearly. With the victory of the Islamic revolution the jihad leaders and the Islamic state declared a general amnesty—the greatest example of Islamic and humanitarian forbearance and forgiveness. It was thereby decided that clashes and hostilities—created by looting aliens and their uncultured servants—were to be ended for good and replaced with Islamic fraternity and cooperation.

As for the living standards of state employees, despite budget restrictions the salaries of state employees have been doubled and the overdue allowances of civil servants and other state employees have been paid. It must be mentioned that despite the fighting and its huge costs, the state has been able to pay the salaries and other allowances of state employees up to the month of Hamal 1373, and to pay about seven billion afghanis to the families of the martyrs, the wounded, and those whose property was damaged. Steps have been taken to eliminate the atheist communist culture which was inculcated in certain circles of our society under the atheist regime, and a program of economic, social, and cultural policies of the Islamic state has been initiated within the limits of high national interests and lofty Islamic teachings.

In the international field, efforts have been made for the country to emerge from diplomatic isolation and to enter a new stage of constructive diplomacy in the interest of peace, the reconstruction of the country, and relations [words indistinct] with neighbors and all nations of the world.

Dear compatriots, the list of measures and achievements of the Islamic State of Afghanistan would certainly have been much longer but for treacherous conspiracies and ruinous battles waged by the traitorous elements against the achievements of jihad and the national interest. We mark this great victory at a time when, unfortunately due to the power-seeking of known groups and agents of the aliens, a bloody and ruinous war has been imposed on our nation, especially on the oppressed residents of Kabul. In this bloody hostility, the Islamic state has no goal but defense of the oppressed people.

After the victory of the Islamic revolution no armed clash inside the country has an Islamic and sharia basis. Yes, after 14 years of jihad and after enduring enormous hardships, the people of Afghanistan were expecting that with the establishment of the Islamic State an epoch of order, tranquillity, stability and good intention and welfare would begin. They hoped that no pain, and that too from the side of the jihadi ranks, would threaten their individual and social life.

But because of the fiendish and opportunist forces,inside and abroad, who preferred their personal and group interest on the interests of Islam and national interest and who could not bear a powerful, united and developing Afghanistan in the heart of the continent of Asia, as a foundation of freedom and justice, embarked on sabotage and destruction. As a result of those bloody conspiracies our material and morale forces, which should have been employed for the reconstruction of the country and for the repair of damages caused by the war, have been, unfortunately, used for further destruction and the killing of our defenseless and innocent compatriots.

Those hostile acts began as from the first days when state power was handed over to mojahedin. When the gang-leaders of this catastrophe [words indistinct], and sometimes under the pretext of opposing the militia and sometimes opposition to some heroic personalities of jihad fanned the flame of war of [word indistinct] and fratricide. And thereby not only did they embark on killing and destruction in the country but also made questionable many years' prides of the mojahedin in and out of the country. In pursuit of a peace-seeking policy and observing the strategy of understanding and talks for the solution of problems, the ISA [Islamic State of Afghanistan] entered negotiations patiently and even ignored their organized conspiracies for the sake of the high national interests and the urgent realization of peace and security and resorted to the solution of problems through peaceful means when the ruthless warmongers embarked on chaos and destruction, and went anywhere possible in search of peace. But the other side did not adhere to any treaty and agreement.

Their last treacherous attempt, in the form of the 11th Jadi [1 January] coup d'etat of the sinister triangle, occurred only three days after the signing of an agreement which had been initiated by the peace delegation of the cabinet.

The coup d'etat plan was executed on a day which corresponded the date of the establishment of the infamous Khalq party [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan]. In the incongruous composition of the putschists, known atheists, national traitors, and hypocrites have gathered in the form of a shameful coalition against Islam and Islamic sovereignty and against the people and the interests of the Afghan nation [37-second break in reception]. When the [word indistinct] of the coup d'etat were frustrated in their action, they embarked on retaliation against the afflicted people of Afghanistan and the residents of Kabul, and closed the road for the people whom they claim to be ruling, embarked on the intensification of war and rocket launching and the destruction of private and state property. It had not been seen in the history of the world for the prime minister of a country to commit such crimes against the residents of his capital, and it has nowhere been seen for a prime minister, who had been disappointed to seize power in a monopolized manner, to announce if he did not accede to power in a desired way, I would continue the killing of the defenseless nation for another 25 years.

It is interesting that they call elections a solution, and still think that they will be winners in elections, and expect that the people of Afghanistan will vote the killers of their children and the destroyers of their homes and those who strangulate them every moment by the imposition of famine and high prices of primary goods. The people have recognized their enemies.

Dear compatriots, we are of the opinion that the principled way of the solution of the current crisis of the country is the creation of an effective electoral mechanism for the appointment of the future leadership of Afghanistan. As in the past, war cannot resolve the smallest of problems but it adds to the hardship. In the opinion of the ISA, talks and understanding for the

cessation of war and bloodshed and for the joint search for solution of the problems of the country are preferable and have priority. Now the time of the rejection of the mojahed forces and their upstaging in the process of determining the fate of the country has passed. We should all jointly participate in the cessation of the disputes in the high interest of the country.

Our faithful and patriotic people are seriously in need of peace and security. They should practically condemn these warmongers, and should not allow any person or force to obstruct the tranquillity of our people and the stability of the situation. The homeland is the common home of all of us. All son of this land, belonging to any nationality or tribe and living in any part of the country and speaking any language, are equally responsible before the country. The defense of its independence and honors, effort and striving for its construction and prosperity are of the common responsibility of all residents of this land.

Defense of independence and its honor and work for the country's reconstruction are the common duties and responsibilities of all who live in this country. Another most important duty of our people is to foil and repulse the (?enemies) [words indistinct] who are causing sedition and disorder in their own self-interests or on the instruction of groups to whom they are attached. We believe that the faithful and honest sons of this country are able to resolve and to end the present crisis and any other crisis in their country without foreign interference.

I believe that the people of Afghanistan themselves are confident arbitrators and judges with the right and authority regarding the national issues of Afghanistan. The people must have the opportunity to use this right and to decide about their homeland and its future, its political system, and its organizational structure. Respecting the will of the people is an Islamic command and an accepted international tradition. Therefore, with regard to the solution of current problems, we believe that a council [shura] representing the will of the people should be set up. Whatever this council is called or whatever name they give to it—great council [loya jerga], constituent council [shura-e hal wa aqd], grand council [grand majlis], or any other name—all nationalities, clans and tribes, religious sects, and the country's various regions are to have proportionate representation in this council.

A nongovernmental and competent commission named the Preparatory Commission for the Formation of the Shura is to be set up in order to prevent and to eliminate every possible kind of pressure likely to be exerted on the work of this council or to prevent any question about its work. This commission will be tasked with preparing the draft for setting up this council and determining the procedure for the election of council members and candidates for the country's leadership. This commission will have [word indistinct] executive authority and its expenses are to be paid by the conference of foreign ministers of the Islamic countries and the United Nations. These two international organizations can supervise the work of setting up this council. [words indistinct]

I call on the esteemed arbitrator delegation and all those who are working for peace to take action as soon as possible to set up this Shura. As soon as this work is completed I am ready to hand over all power immediately to this council. I declare clearly and earnestly to the brave people of Afghanistan that I personally do not wish to shed even one drop of blood of our persecuted people for whatever reason or objective. We have already shown the necessary readiness, and in the future too we are ready to take every beneficial action on this path. After this council has been set up, as pointed out, state power will be handed over. This council will elect the future leadership in conformity with the will and wish of the entire people. The council's decision must be respected by all.

It is my duty here to express appreciation for the work and earnest endeavor of the peace delegations inside the country and the esteemed ulema from the Islamic countries, as well as for the work and efforts of the United Nations (?and the UN peace delegation) led by esteemed M. Mestiri who have been working very hard.

I hope that as a result of the efforts of the caring people inside the country and the cooperation of the friendly and neighborly countries and international organizations, especially the OIC and UN, the current problem in our country be resolved and peace and security be restored.

Pursuing the principle of positive nonalignment and noninterference in the internal affairs of countries near and far, the Islamic State of Afghanistan is loyal and interested in the consolidation of peace and stability in the world and does not interfere in the internal affairs of any country. The Islamic State of Afghanistan is the serious supporter of freedom, justice, and the observance of human rights, and consider respectable and observable the Charter of UN, the principles of Nonalignment Movement, and all international conventions which are not against Islamic values. While remembering with appreciation the support of the neighboring, Islamic, and other peace-loving countries during the righteous struggle of the people of Afghanistan, the Islamic State of Afghanistan once again asks all those countries to render sincere cooperation with our people in the process of the ensuring peace and security and the reconstruction of the ruined Afghanistan. Dear compatriots, congratulating you once again on the second anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution, I wish that almighty God makes the third year of the victory of the Islamic revolution, in whose first days we are now, a year of peace and calm and [words indistinct] in order that we shall celebrate other anniversaries of this historic day in an atmosphere of peace and fraternity across the Islamic, independent, and free Afghanistan, God willing. Peace be upon you.

India

Ministers Assure Parliament on NPT, U.S. Talks

BK2904092094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] The government today categorically assured Parliament that it will not give in to any pressure on the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] issue, neither will there be any change in India's stand that the NPT should be universal and nondiscriminatory.

Allaying apprehensions expressed by opposition members on the London talks between Indian and U.S. officials, the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, in the Lok Sabha and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, in the Rajya Sabha made it clear that there is absolutely no rethinking on the NPT issue. Mr. Shukla said there is no secrecy about the talks and it was held in London only because it was convenient to both the sides. Describing the talks as preparatory to the prime minister's forthcoming visit to the United States, he urged the members to ensure that both Parliament and the people strengthen the hands of Mr. Narasimha Rao in safeguarding the nation's interests. Mr. Shukla said that whenever summit meetings are planned, such preparatory talks are held to discuss various points which will come up.

Mr. Salman Khurshid said that government will abide by the Rajiv Gandhi action plan on nuclear disarmament; and earlier raising the issue during zero hour in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Saifuddin Chaudhary and other opposition leaders demanded a statement on the London talks, as it has created apprehensions in the minds of the people because of various press reports about the secrecy of the meeting. Raising the issue in the Rajya Sabha, Mr. J.P. Mathur, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], said that utterances by the U.S. officials have hurt the self-respect of the country.

Congress-I Spokesman Comments on NPT

BK2904040094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] The Congress-I has said that India will not sign the Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] unless all countries are included in it and it becomes nondiscriminatory in character. Talking to newspersons in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said revision of the treaty is due next year and, therefore, member countries need to have some negotiations in this regard.

Envoys Briefed on 'Militant Activities' in Kashmir

BK2904082794 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] The ambassadors of 11 countries currently on a four-day visit to Kashmir were yesterday briefed in Srinagar by senior Army officers about the Pak-sponsored militant activities in the valley. The ambassadors were told that the militants indulged in killing of innocent people, burned government and private property, and also misbehaved with women. Ambassadors of Peru, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Iran, Argentina, Brazil, Jordan, and Oman were shown the arms and ammunition seized by the security forces during their anti-militant operations.

The ambassadors also met some foreign mercenaries who admitted that they were misled by false propaganda that a lot of atrocities were being committed on the Muslim population of the valley of Kashmir but when they came there they found that nothing of this sort was happening there. The militants said they were disappointed now. The ambassadors saw some wounded militants being treated by Army doctors.

The visiting ambassadors today called on the Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. K.V. Krishna Rao, at the Raj Bhavan.

Two 'Militants' Among 8 Killed in Kashmir

BK2904033794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, eight persons, including two militants and two political workers, were killed in the militancy-related incidents during the last 24 hours. Ghulam Qadir Janbaz, a National Conference worker, was shot dead by the militants at Vanabal and Mr. Abdus Salam Salar of Jamaat-i-Islami was killed at Nurbagh by the militants. Security forces arrested seven militants during search operation and recovered two AK rifles, three pistols, five grenades, one rocket launched, and a large quantity of ammunition.

Meanwhile, in Jammu and Kashmir, a vital suspension bridge over the Chenab near Loda was burned by the militants today. This has cut off a vital link to about 40 villages of Doda Tehsil near Jodhpur village. The bridge has been constructed about 25 years ago.

Islamabad Reports on Strike in Kashmir

BK2904032094 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Complete strike was observed in occupied Kashmir today to protest against official hindrances in the way of people's contact with the visiting Islamic countries' ambassadors in the valley. All shops, business establishments, educational institutions, and private and public offices remained closed throughout the valley. Transport was completely off the road. A spokesman of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference accused the governor of not allowing the public access to the foreign envoys.

Meanwhile, another six people have been martyred and many injured in military crackdowns and clashes. Scores

of youths were arrested during siege and search operations in different parts of the valley.

Iran

Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister Arrives in Tehran

NC2904071894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by unidentified correspondent in Tehran on 29 April]

[Text] On his arrival at the Mehrabad Airport in Tehran, the deputy prime minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina said: The Muslim nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina continues to appreciate the support and assistance by their brothers and sisters in Iran and will never forget this affection. We believe that Iran is our best friend and supporter in today's sorrowful crisis.

Referring to the condition in his country, Edib Bukvic stressed: After 20 days of aggression and the massacre of thousands of our compatriots, the war in Gorazde has relatively subsided. He warned: We believe that the Serbs are preparing for renewed attacks in northern and southern Bosnia-Herzegovina. The world today is amazed and saddened at the silence and indifference of the West and of Europe, who continue to profess the defense of freedom and human rights.

The Bosnian deputy prime minister asserted: Of course we rely on God, our people, and the support of friendly and fraternal countries such as Iran, but we insist upon the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina, so we can resist this unjust aggression and war, and defend our homeland and beliefs.

Meets President's Deputy

LD2904111194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Mr. Edib Bukvic, the deputy prime minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, who is in Tehran at the head of high-ranking political and economic delegation, met and conferred this morning with Mr. 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani, the president's deputy in charge of legal affairs.

In this meeting, Bukvic expressed gratitude for the Islamic Republic of Iran's help to the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and stressed the resolution of the people of his country to continue their struggle and liberate their occupied territories. He referred to the issuance of a Security Council resolution about events in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and said: At present, only one part of the resolution which concerns the arms embargo against Bosnia is being implemented.

The Bosnian deputy prime minister also expressed the willingness of his country to expand and consolidate ties with Iran in various fields, such as in economic and industrial spheres as well as in the exchange of experts.

In this meeting, Mr. Mohajerani in turn stressed the need for cooperation and the support of the world Muslims for the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said: Iran will utilize all its means to help the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

IRNA Reports UK Allegation of Iran-IRA Link

LD2804135694 Tehran IRNA in English 1328 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] London, Apr. 28, IRNA—The British Government Thursday [28 April] launched a new campaign to discredit Iran by making claims that Tehran was involved in "assisting and encouraging terrorism" in Northern Ireland. At a meeting with Iran's charge d'affaires to London, Gholamreza Ansari, Foreign Office minister, Douglas Hogg, was said to have made accusations that he was "convinced of contacts between Iranian intelligence and the IRA" in its struggle against UK rule.

The charge d'affaires had been asked to have an advance meeting with Hogg ahead of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) group on Bosnia pressing the British Government to end its indifference to Serb aggression. But according to the Foreign Office minister, Ansari was told that he had been "summoned" to convey British concern about the supposed contacts with the IRA, which he maintained should be "immediately and conclusively severed."

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said he was unable to comment on where the unspecified allegations came from other than there had been no claims or reports made in the British press. The only advance information came from a BBC correspondent, presumably briefed by the Foreign Office, who alleged that Iran was planning to assist the IRA with funds and weapons.

Republican sources in Belfast were equally surprised by the claims, suggesting that it was "black propaganda" used to cover British intelligence involvement in helping to supply South African weapons to loyalist terrorists in Northern Ireland.

The UK Government has also been under pressure by its failure to press forward the peace process in Belfast and is seen looking for a scapegoat. Other links have been made about Britain's 'Rushdie campaign' against Iran "running out-of-steam" and was looking to for a fresh smear to support the U.S. policy to isolate Tehran following this week's visit from Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Envoy on 'Unfounded' Claim

LD2804195594 Tehran IRNA in English 1849 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] London, April 28, IRNA—British Government allegations of Iran's involvement with terrorism and

having connections with the Irish Republican Army (IRA) are "absolutely unfounded," Iran's Charge D'affaires to London, Gholam Reza Ansari said Thursday [28 April].

The Islamic Republic has "always condemned terrorism and never supported such activities in anyway," he told a press conference after holding talks with Foreign Office Minister, Douglas Hogg.

Ansari's said London's allegations were to divert public opinion from Bosnia, ahead of his participation in an Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) group meeting with Hogg, which included seven other senior diplomats from Muslim countries.

The Iranian charge d'affaires was asked to attend the Foreign Office just prior to his participation in the OIC meeting, which criticized the United Nation's indifference to the Bosnian crisis.

However, on his arrival, he found the Foreign Office minister claiming that he was "summoned." Political analysts were both mystified and surprised at Britain provoking a fresh dispute with Islamic Iran. The BBC suggested that it could undermine the already fragile relations between the two countries.

A delegation of London parliamentarians had been hoping this week to make its first trip to Tehran since the Islamic revolution in a move to repair relations, which had been approved by Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd.

Other opinions suggested the smear campaign may be a cover for the failure of Britain's peace initiative in Northern Ireland, which appears to have recently ended in deadlock.

Ministry Official Comments

LD2804212694 Tehran IRNA in English 2106 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 28, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry today summoned the British charge d'affaires here, Geoffrey James over the allegations by British officials and media of collaboration between Iranian security officials and the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Foreign Ministry Director General for West European Affairs, 'Ali Ahani, told IRNA that Iran strongly denied the claim and dismissed it as "utterly false".

"We categorically reject reports of collaboration between Iranian security officials and IRA and regard such allegations as totally groundless," he said.

Ahani expressed regret the malicious propaganda of the British media.

Commentary on British Forces in Northern Ireland

LD2804204594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Unattributed commentary from the "Perspectives" feature]

[Text] The foreign secretary of Britain and foreign minister of Northern Ireland [titles as heard], Douglas Hurd and Dick Spring, met on April the 25th in Dublin, capital of Ireland, in the context of the Northern Ireland peace talks aimed at examining the means and ways for breaking the deadlocked talks.

After four months since the signing of Ireland-Britain peace initiative this is the first time ever that the two countries' senior officials have launched a fresh effort for overcoming the existing obstacles. Britain, which is one of the old parties to the Northern Ireland dispute, through setting certain preconditions for the participation of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, at their peace talks has resulted in prompting this army to view their future peace talks with pessimism, thus continuing its armed struggles [sentence as received].

Britain, through setting a precondition for the Irish Republican Army for putting an end to the armed struggles without determining any obligation for London in connection with the withdrawal of its forces, has drawn these talks to a stalemate.

Political observers believe the presence of 12,000 British troops as well as a 7,000 strong Ulster police in Northern Ireland, which are considered as major opposition forces antagonizing the IRA, are regarded as major obstacles to the continuation of the peace talks process.

The British Government, contrary to its claims, based on its interests in resolving the Northern Ireland dispute, still insists on certain stands which are typical of the continuation of Britain's dominance in Northern Ireland.

The British Government has hinted at the issue of self-rule for Northern Ireland in its plan for peace initiative which means that London refuses to accept the right to sovereignty for Northern Ireland and is attempting to keep Northern Ireland as a region under British dominance. Meanwhile, the Protestant majority residing in Northern Ireland, that enjoys all-out support and protection of Britain, is yet another obstacle to the process of peace talks. In order to overcome it, Britain has to adopt a stance taking into consideration the existing realities.

Assuredly the British Government is no longer able to resort to the past methods to suppress the IRA and seek to exercise military power for the materialization of its political objectives.

In the meantime, one should note that the IRA, in turn, now does not see continuation of the armed struggle to be enough for achieving its goals. That is because the Conservative and Labor Governments in Britain have demonstrated that they have made themselves invulnerable to the blows of the army and will neutralize the effects of such measures and the government's political decisions. With regard to the fact that the two sides have obtained great experiences during more than two decades of struggle, and also in view of the difficulties faced by each side, it appears that one can assess the future of these talks optimistically through the presentation of peaceful views by each side.

Commentary Views Christopher's Middle East Tour

NC2704194194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher started his Middle East tour with his arrival in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, where he was welcomed by his Saudi counterpart Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. In addition to his meeting with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, Christopher will hold a joint session with the foreign ministers of the six Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member countries.

Although it is said that Christopher's talks in Riyadh will concentrate on three topics—the Middle East compromise, the situation and developments in the Persian Gulf, and the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina—political observers believe that the major topic of discussion among the U.S. secretary of state, Saudi officials, and GCC foreign ministers will be these countries' role in activating the talks with the Zionist regime, the recognition of this regime, and the normalization of relations with it.

In view of the difficulties that the compromise talks are facing on bilateral levels, especially those of Syria and Lebanon, as well as the bleak prospects for the Israeli-PLO talks, the foreign sides—especially the United States—are trying to shift the talks' center of gravity from bilateral conflicts between the front-line countries and those that are in contact with the Zionist regime to multilateral sessions. By removing the support from behind the front-line countries, they hope to transform compromise with the Zionist regime into a road of no return.

Within this framework, a new round of multilateral sessions with Zionist diplomatic delegations have started in the Arab littoral countries of the Persian Gulf. Although Saudi Arabia is apparently not the host of any of these sessions, Christopher's visit to Riyadh shows that the center of Washington's new diplomacy for activating the rusty wheels of compromise is in Riyadh. One of the most important topics in the discussions between the six GCC foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state is a statement proposed by the United States in which countries participating in the multilateral talks would mutually recognize the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and so-called political independence of each other and declare their firm belief in a peaceful solution of differences, respect for human rights, and support for economic cooperation with each other. Moreover, the statement proposed by the United States emphasizes the need for political reform, the implementation of democratic principles, and the freedom of political parties.

Thus, the GCC countries are currently facing a new bottleneck and have to resort to a deal with Washington. These countries consider the implementation of any type of fundamental political reforms to be destructive. Thus, they will possibly resort to a political transaction that will include concessions to Tel Aviv in the political and economic fields in return for Washington's acceptance of the slow pace at which political reforms are moving in these countries.

Commentary Views Peace Efforts

LD2804213494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Trilateral talks among Christopher, Peres, and 'Arafat began in Cairo today. The three sides discussed the resumption of the Middle East peace talks and the implementation of the Gaza-Ariha Accord.

According to most observers, before being effective in overcoming the present differences, the meeting has merely been a show for indicating the three sides' interest in reaching an agreement. The analysts say that the main goal being pursued by Mr. Christopher during his Middle East tour, which began on Wednesday, is nothing except persuading the Arabs to resume compromise talks with Israel. Despite this, in view of the outcome of Christopher's Wednesday meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, with the foreign ministers of the southern Persian Gulf countries, some political observers say that, as before, the U.S. secretary of state, during his meetings with the foreign ministers of the regional countries, besides increasing the interregional countries' differences, is persuading the Arab countries of the Middle East to lift economic sanctions against Israel. The United States has been basically pursuing the same very goal for the past year, which is also part of its strategy that, on the one hand, the pro-U.S. Arab countries are brought closer to Israel and, on the other, on various pretexts, any country opposing the U.S. imperialist policies in the Middle East is projected as a new enemy of the Arabs instead of Israel and their old enemy, that is Israel itself, is projected as the apparent friend of the Arabs.

However, during his Middle East tour, Mr. Christopher while continuing his strategy, is seeking to remove the factors that have halted the compromise talks. But it is

already evident that he will have no success in this goal because Arab states have now discerned that the Zionist regime is trying to get maximum concessions while giving minimum concessions in return. Therefore any plan being pursued by the Americans eventually falls within this framework. This matter has already been established over the past three years when the compromise talks opened in Madrid.

Some Arab allies of America in the region, without paying any attention to the events taking place behind the scene, are adopting their political stance as agents of Washington and Tel Aviv solely for the sake of holding on to their rule for some more time. This has prevented the Arab states to form a united front in the face of the Zionist regime. It is even more painful to note that these Arab states are distancing themselves further from their own Muslim masses. Under such conditions, Washington and Tel Aviv, without any concern about the future, are trying to gain maximum concessions from the governments which are a party to negotiations with the Zionist regime by exploiting the differences among them and through creating a rift among the Arab and non-Arab Islamic states.

Hajj Official Criticizes Saudi Stand

LD2904100994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammad Reyshahri, the representative of the esteemed leader and the supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims to the House of God [Mecca] stressed: The disavowal of infidels is a part of the hajj, is the spirit of the hajj and is the true meaning of this great congress.

The supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims to the House of God, who was speaking before today's Friday prayers sermons in Tehran, criticized the approach of the Saudi Arabian Government towards the disavowal of infidels ceremonies and said: We are not trying to create any disturbances for the Saudi Government. However, on the basis of Islamic principles and at the urging of the guardian of the cause of Muslims [Khamene'i], and in order to implement a divine injunction, we will perform these ceremonies.

He said: In Islam it is incumbent upon people to take part in the disavowal of infidels ceremonies. He added: To separate the political dimension from the hajj means that in this great congress the Muslims will have to do nothing regarding the enemies of Islam and should not find any solutions for the political and social problems in Islamic countries, including in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is burning in the fire of Serbian atrocities.

He urged Saudi officials not to prevent the Muslims from carrying out their duty in performing the disavowal of infidels ceremonies in this year's hajj pilgrimage.

Afghan Ulema Urged To End Civil War

LD2604185794 Tehran IRNA in English 1803 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—The leader's representative for Afghan affairs, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ebrahimi, here Tuesday called on Afghan ulema to strive for ending the civil war in their country.

Ebrahimi, who made the plea in a meeting with head of coordination council for northern Afghanistan and General Abdul-Rashid Dostam's special envoy Sirat Taleqani, said Afghan ulema can play an important role in improving current situation in Afghanistan and bringing unity to the feuding Afghan groups.

"If they (Afghan ulema) fulfil their mission, clashes will end," reiterated the Iranian official.

He said the clashes in Afghanistan have no result except the massacre of civilians. Unity and cohesion among all groups to elect just one leader or leadership council can put an end to the ongoing animosities, he added.

Ebrahimi voiced the Iranian nation and leadership's sympathy with the situation of world Muslim, especially the Afghan people.

Taleqani, who carried Dostam's written message to leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, thanked Iran for its humanitarian relief supplies to the Afghan people.

The message expressed gratitude for Ayatollah Khamene'i's sympathies for the Afghan people, and called for continuation of Iran's assistance to the Afghan Muslims.

Afghan Delegation Seeks Solution to Crisis

LD2804174094 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] A senior official of our country's Foreign Ministry announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the basis of a balanced policy, supports any constructive move to resolve the Afghan crisis.

Mr. 'Ala'eddin Borjerdi, the deputy foreign minister for Asian and Oceanic affairs, referring to the efforts by our country's embassy in Kabul, and other meetings and talks carried out with the Afghan president, prime minister, and other leaders of Jihadi groups, said: There is proper ground for ending the internal problems of Afghanistan and shortly, in a gathering in Tehran, a delegation, comprising the representatives of the Jihadi groups, will be reviewing with Iranian officials ways and means of returning peace to Afghanistan.

Mali President, Delegation Arrives for Talks

LD2804213094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare, president of Mali, arrived in Tehran a few moments ago and Mr. Habibi, first vice president, welcomed him. Here is our correspondent with a report:

[Correspondent] Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare, Mali president, arrived in Tehran a few moments ago at the head of a delegation and was officially welcomed by First Vice President Mr. Habibi.

On arrival in Tehran, the Mali president said he considers the expansion of friendly and fraternal relations with the Iranian nation and government to be very important and seeks to hold talks with Iranian officials on expansion of ties, as well as on regional and world issues.

He added: The cooperation and mutual understanding between the two Muslim countries is most crucial under present world conditions and considering the new world order.

Mr. Habibi, our country's first vice president, referring to the priority of ties with Muslim and African states in the Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] foreign policy said: Taking into consideration the ancient history of the state of Mali and the influence of Islam in that country, Iran wishes to expand its cooperation with that country and during the visit the expansion of economic and cultural ties will be discussed.

The first round of talks between the two presidents of IRI and Mali will be held in Tehran tomorrow morning.

Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2904103794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] In a meeting with Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani placed emphasis on the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy which stresses cooperation with African countries in general and Muslim countries in particular.

During this morning's meeting, the president of Mali expressed pleasure about visiting Iran. He pointed out that unity among Muslim and other nations plays an effective role in the resolution of world problems, and called for the expansion of relations with Iran. He added: Your excellency is well aware of the situation in African countries and particularly in Mali, as well as the problems of that continent, and I feel that I am able to hold discussions with your excellency in all fields.

In response, Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked Mr. Konare for his sincere remarks and referred to Iran's foreign policy, giving priority to cooperation with Muslim countries and said: We are ready for extensive cooperation with the Muslim and friendly country of Mali in all fields of interest to the two countries. He added: Your country can be a powerful country in agriculture and animal husbandry, and your plentiful natural resources can play a decisive role in solving your country's problems. Underdevelopment there should be seen as an outcome of the colonialism which dominated your country for years. The president said: We hope that you succeed in overcoming your problems through your work and through solidarity now that you are independent. We in Iran had some good experiences and are ready to cooperate with you, and Islam, which is the common bond between the two countries, can play a significant role in ever expanding cooperation.

Also during the meeting, the problems of the Islamic world, particularly problems of Palestine and Bosnia-Herzegovina, were discussed and the two sides stressed the need for further solidarity among Islamic countries in order to solve problems of the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Deputy Foreign Minister, Philippine Envoy View Ties

LD2604190794 Tehran IRNA in English 1841 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—The Philippine ambassador here, Oscar Valenzuela and First Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hashemi, on Tuesday discussed the holding of the Tehran-Manila joint economic commission.

The two sides agreed that the commission was an ideal forum to improve bilateral relations and explore avenues of cooperation.

Valenzuela called for further expansion of bilateral relations and cooperation in light of the economic potential of the two countries.

Hashemi suggested that cooperation between regional organizations such as the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), would prove useful to both sides.

Philippine is a member of the ASEAN which also includes Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, while Iran is a founding member of the 10-nation ECO, whose other members are Pakistan, Turkey, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

President Emphasizes Islamic Values in Speech

LD2704182194 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a gathering of the central council of the Islamic Coalition Society [ICS—Jam'iyyat-e Mo'talefe-ye Eslami], described

action based on the axis of velayat-e faqih [guardianship of the jurisconsult] and following the guidelines of the exalted leadership [Khamene'i] at this juncture in society to be a duty for officials, the people, and various formations of the community.

Praising the lofty character of the martyrs of ICS, the president said: What guarantees the correctness and soundness of the activities of a formation is its adherence to the principle of velayat-e faqih and giving preference to the interests of the Islamic system as opposed to personal and factional interests. The ICS has maintained its adherence to that important principle since its inception.

Referring to the fact that Iran is known as a wealthy state in the world, Hashemi-Rafsanjani laid emphasis on the need for endeavor, planning, and sincere cooperation among each and every one of the people and said: Thus, we will prove to the world that a nation is able to make up for past underdevelopment and to correct past wrongful policies through reliance on its financial and human resources while preserving its holy, Islamic, noble, and national values and aspirations. The realization of that import by the end of the second development plan is not hard to expect.

President on Self-Sufficiency in Electricity

LD2804115094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Excerpt] As we informed you earlier in the bulletin, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani today inspected three exhibitions in connection with the electricity, mining, construction, and gemstone industries, and also the projects of the Science Academy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The exhibitions were set up on Tehran's permanent exhibition site for international trade fairs.

At the end of his inspection tour, the president was interviewed by our correspondent and expressed his views on these exhibitions.

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] The outstanding features of the electricity industry exhibition were too many to be mentioned in this interview. However, one of the features which interested me greatly was to witness the result of a move which started two years ago with the aim of enabling us to manage all aspects of the electricity industry on our own—such as production, transfer, and distribution. With regard to the distribution of electricity, we are almost fully self-sufficient in that everything to do with all 20 posts [as heard] is being done inside the country.

As far as the transfer of electricity is concerned, we are also largely self-sufficient. In production too, there has been a major move during the last two years, and now we are able to build everything which is feasible and cost-efficient inside the country and meet the needs of our hydroelectric, steam, gas, and compound cycle power stations. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The president stressed: With the plans we have, during the next five or six years Iran will become one of the main centers for the construction of various types of power stations. Such an achievement deserves praise, and one must really pay tribute to the efforts of the experts in the field. He added: Experience shows that our choice, that is the construction of dams and hydroelectric power stations, was a right choice which has proved beneficial to us. [passage omitted]

Central Bank Governor, IMF's Camdessus Confer

LD2804083494 Tehran IRNA in English 0536 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 28, IRNA—The governor of Iran's Central Bank Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli in a meeting with the managing director of International Monetary Fund, Michel Camdessus, in Washington D.C. Tuesday exchanged views on the issues of mutual interest. 'Adeli briefed Camdessus on the achievements and progress of the first development plan saying that during the first five-year development plan Iran's gross domestic product (GDP) has considerably increased. Despite pressures from some foreign countries, Iran has succeeded in concluding useful agreements with its trade partners, 'Adeli said.

Camdessus said that Iran's success in rescheduling its foreign debts would increase its credit in the fields of trade and commerce. He also lauded Iran's stands vis-a-vis the developing countries.

'Adeli is currently in Washington D.C. to attend the joint session of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Majles To Control Prices of Government Goods, Services

LD2804125094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1007 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] On the basis of a draft bill whose urgency was approved in yesterday's Majles session, any change in the price of goods and services provided by the government will require the approval of the legislature.

On the basis of this single article bill, from the date of the approval of the bill, any increase in the prices of goods or services can be implemented only on the basis of the proposal of the Economic Council and the approval of the Islamic Majles. Any price increases that have been announced by the Economic Council or any other source since the start of the current year [starting 21 March 1994] will be null and void. If this bill is approved, the government will also be dutybound to exert precise supervision and control over the prices that have been approved and should take legal measures against those who violate the approved prices.

It should be added that on the basis of the internal regulations of the Islamic Majles, the single article draft bill on controlling the prices of goods and services will be discussed and studied out of turn by the specialized [economic] committee, and will be probably debated and ratified by the open session of the Majles within the next 20 days.

According to some experts on economic affairs, the ratification of the single bill article regarding the intervention of the legislature in controlling prices will be a way of expanding the scope of decisionmaking on the increase of the prices of goods and services. Consequently, when necessary, any changes in prices will be implemented after a deeper expert discussion and on the basis of realities and needs. This will prevent some illogical decisions that may be taken by some executive officials regarding unprincipled price increases. At the same time, this move to control prices in itself will be regarded as a lever for controlling inflation.

It should be noted that the First Development Plan of the country [which concluded 20 March 1994] was drawn up on the basis of a balanced economy. In other words, the prices of government goods and services should have been set at a level which would, at least, cover the cost of the production of those goods and services; so that, on the one hand, by lowering its costs, the government could reduce its financial liabilities and, on the other hand, those revenues [thus saved] could be spent on development projects and investments in infrastructure.

Consequently, the consumers should pay an appropriate price for making use of government goods and services, so that the sick economy of the country will be directed toward recovery and its structure will be corrected.

During the past five years, in order to implement a balanced policy, economic programs were drawn up in such a way that in the medium term to support the oppressed [poorer classes] the level of cash payments and subsidies would be gradually reduced on a balanced scale so that the consumers could adjust their purchasing abilities with the prices.

In the same connection, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has explained the government policies on a balanced economy, and stressed the need to increase the people's income and purchasing power. He said: There should be a balance between the people's income and expenditure, so that they will need government assistance. Therefore, in the policies of economic equilibrium, hand in hand with correcting the prices of goods and services there should also be an increase in the purchasing power and salaries of vulnerable classes. In the same connection, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed Leader of the Islamic Revolution, in his 12-point instruction to the government, stressed the need for serious legal support for all the oppressed classes of society in various fields. The esteemed president of the Islamic Republic also described the achievement of social justice as the main target of the Second Development Plan of the country.

In any case, under the present conditions when our country is in the process of its economic reconstruction, the legislative and executive powers of the Islamic Republic of Iran are determined to pave the way for the achievement of economic independence and public welfare of the Iranian people.

Cabinet Decides To Sell Off Government Vehicles

LD2704205694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Excerpt] The cabinet held a session on Wednesday [27 April] night. At the end of the session the first vice-president and the government spokesman, Mr. Habibi, announced: According to operational regulations adopted by the cabinet all government vehicles will be released from government control and sold off to natural and corporate persons on an instalment basis.

He added: Those public servants who wish to take early retirement or form a cooperative will be able to purchase government vehicles. He said: 20 percent of the vehicles belonging to the government must be sold off by the end of the year [ending 20 March 1995] according to a decision by the Islamic Consultative Majlis. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Foreign Minister on Nuclear, Economic Issues

JN2704195694 Al-Shariqah AL-SHURUQ in Arabic 21-27 Apr 94 p 32-33

[Interview with Foreign Minister Sardar Asif by Buthaynah Abu-'Ubayd; place and date not given]

[Text] [Abu-'Ubayd] Recently, there has been an increase in the wave of criticism of the Benazir Bhutto government claiming that she has reembraced the old approach. This raises questions about the fate of the current government and its stability?

[Asif] The internal situation in Pakistan is completely stable. Reports about tension have no truth whatsoever. The internal disturbances that take place are provoked by a neighboring state that always seeks to cause these disturbances to divert the attention of the Pakistani Government from its inhuman practices on its border.

[Abu-'Ubayd] How true is the current talk in Islamabad about the possibility of the Pakistan Muslim League [PML] withdrawing from its alliance with the ruling Pakistan People's Party, against the background of widespread mismanagement?

[Asif] I do not want to offend the Pakistani opposition. However, there is no real problem with the PML. These

are only press headlines. The fact is my presence here is the best evidence of the continued alliance of the two parties. I am a member of the PML and I say the party coalition is permanent and stable. In addition, some religious parties, who posed as our enemies in the recent elections, have started to cooperate with the government. Take, for example, the Assembly of Islamic Clergy led by Maulana Fazlur Rahman.

[Abu-'Ubayd] On the economic level, has the government fulfilled the promises it made in its election program?

[Asif] We have succeeded in some aspects, particularly the economic aspects. When we arrived, the Pakistani treasury had only about three million [currency not specified] in hard currency. Now, we have two billion. We also got rid of the floating currency problem, which happened three times during the government of Nawaz Sharif. Also, the Karachi stock market is one of the world's five strongest markets.

There is also a major plan for economic reform. However, before carrying out this plan, we must remove difficulties and obstacles and pave the way for such reforms. We are currently trying to avoid the mistakes of the previous government and stop the negative developments it has caused, such as the financial crisis suffered by the country.

The IMF has agreed to give Pakistan $3 billion in aid. This shows the success of our new economic approach, which is also a subject of interest to world quarters.

[Abu-'Ubayd] As soon as she assumed office, Benazir Bhutto called a halt to the policy of privatization adopted by her predecessor. Is there any plan to reintroduce this policy?

[Asif] During the term of Nawaz Sharif, the system of privatization was used to serve the personal interests of a few people. The selling and ownership of government sectors was confined to an elite of his group. Consequently, the money and shares primarily went to people who are loyal to him, despite the fact that these sectors are owned by all the people. Therefore, we terminated and reviewed privatization in light of the new reform plan. We are now about to start it once again, but with caution and avoiding any corruption that might affect it. Within this context, we seek to attract investments and capital to invest in Pakistan, especially in the energy sector that yields guaranteed profit amounting to 33 percent.

[Abu-'Ubayd] The rise of the recent government was surrounded by speculation regarding a retreat to Islamic fundamentalism. How true is this on the ground?

[Asif] In the recent elections, the religious parties won only a few votes. There has been a large retreat in religious fundamentalism in the wake of the elections. It was clear to everybody that our people resent fundamentalism and extremism and support moderation and modern approaches. Our people think political parties can build a new Pakistan better than religious parties.

[Abu-'Ubayd] What is the aim of the active Pakistani diplomatic moves toward Iran, including high-level visits recently?

[Asif] You must be aware of the close relations between Iran and Pakistan. Iran is a friendly state. We have excellent relations with it but not at the expense of any other state.

We attach great importance to the north and south of the Gulf. We are interested in stability in the Gulf as well as in the Indian sea [as published] region. The Gulf states host more than 1 million Pakistani nationals. We have important economic cooperation. We have special ties with the United Arab Emirates [UAE], in particular. The UAE participates in huge projects and has huge investments in Pakistan. It is also an important source of oil for Pakistan. Moreover, during my current visit to the UAE, I proposed to the brother UAE officials to hold joint naval maneuvers, as we have already done with Iran and Oman. This is an indication of our special relations with the UAE.

Stemming from its good relations with both Iran and the UAE, Pakistan is prepared to play the role of mediator to resolve differences and the problem of the occupied islands, and end tension between the two, if we are asked to do so.

[Abu-'Ubayd] Now that the bilateral talks between Pakistan and India on the Kashmir issue have stopped, how do you see relations between the two countries in light of the continuous border tension?

[Asif] India does not want to resolve the Kashmir issue through negotiations. The Pakistani side has ascertained that India did not follow peaceful methods in this issue. Pakistan wants a peaceful solution based on UN resolutions.

The situation is really serious. Any deviation from the peaceful path will definitely lead to war in which the possibility of nuclear escalation will increase. This prompted the United States to bring India and Pakistan to the negotiating table.

Meanwhile, we will not remain silent on the mass violations of human rights in Kashmir. More than 500,000 Indian troops are deployed in Kashmir, spreading destruction and corruption on a daily basis. The situation there is more difficult than it is in Bosnia. We will be right if we call Kashmir the "Bosnia of Asia."

[Abu-'Ubayd] Following U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Strobe Talbott's visit, you announced your conditional readiness to stop your nuclear program. Will this be in exchange for a U.S. aircraft deal?

[Asif] Pakistan has never refused to sign an agreement to end the nuclear race in South Asia. We offered to agree to the U.S. proposals provided India agreed in the

second round of negotiations and a solution was reached. [sentence as published] When an agreement is reached on a solution, we will be prepared to halt our nuclear programs in three stages, which will inevitably lead to some results. The first is immediate halt to the atomic project, the second is to return the program to its first stages, and then stop it altogether. I would like to assert that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear bomb. But Pakistan is a nuclear power and has the capability [al-salahiyah] to produce it at any time. When we reach agreement with India, we will stop the program completely.

As for the F-16 plane deal, we made it clear to the Americans that it should not be linked to the nuclear question. The United States agreed to the deal in the past and we paid $650 [million] for 38 out of a total of 71 planes.

The U.S. Congress's refusal to approve the deal following the Pressler Amendment is a U.S. problem. I am confident that the Clinton Administration is understanding, and that it is endeavoring to remove obstacles to approving the deal because of the differences it engendered in the U.S.-Pakistani relations.

[Abu-'Ubayd] What about your agreement to allow inspection of your nuclear facilities?

[Asif] The Americans presented technical proposals on inspection to ascertain that we do not possess the bomb. After we study these proposals, we will consider whether or not we will allow them to monitor.

Minister: $658 Million Paid to U.S. for F-16's

BK2804155294 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] The National Assembly was informed today that Pakistan has thus far paid $658 million to the United States for the F-16 planes. In a written reply during the question hour, Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani disclosed that the delivery of these aircraft to Pakistan was scheduled to begin in April 1993, but the supply was stopped due to the Pressler Amendment. He said negotiations are under way with the U.S. Government on this issue.

President Urges Opposition To End Assembly Boycott

BK2804141694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] The president, Mr. Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, has called upon the opposition to end its boycott and join the proceedings of the National Assembly. He was talking to newsmen in Islamabad this morning after laying the foundation stone of the National Police Academy. The president said boycott is a constitutional right of the opposition, but it is high time that politicians must play their due role to defuse tension and end polarization in the national body politic. He said even otherwise there is no justification for the opposition to resort to boycott at this moment.

Replying to various questions, the president said he has done nothing unconstitutional as far as the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] is concerned. He said that Syed Sabir Shah, after losing majority in the Provincial Assembly, adopted improper tactics to sustain his government. He said it is a democratic norm that when one loses majority, he should step aside.

Government Reports Decrease in Trade Deficit

BK2804112894 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 28 Apr 94 p12

[Text] Islamabad: The trade deficit recorded a decrease of US $700 million during the first nine months (July 1993 to March 1994) of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of the last monetary year (1992-1993), official sources told The News on Tuesday [26 April].

Statistics show that the trade deficit during the first nine months of 1992-1993 was US $2.014 billion, which reduced to US $1.322 billion between July 1993 to March 1994.

Financial managers consider this a significant reduction in the trade deficit, which registered a decrease of almost US $77 million per month during the first nine months of the current financial year. They hope that the deficit would further be reduced by adopting more balanced approach in exports and imports.

Official sources say the foreign exchage reserves have been studied for the last two months at US $1.8 billion—sufficient for almost nine weeks of imports.

Between July 1993 to March 1994, the total export bill remained US $4.80 billion as compared to US $5.05 billion during the same period of last fiscal year, showing a decline of 3.4 percent in exports.

During the first nine months of the current fiscal year, the total import bill remained US $6.2 billion as compared to US $7.1 billion in the corresponding period of 1992-93, showing a decline of 12.2 percent in imports.

Financial managers say the decline in exports occured due to the discontinuation of the yellow cab scheme, effect of devaluation and title monetary policy and the government's more stringent control on deficit.

Sri Lanka

President Delays China Visit Due to Party 'Crisis'

BK2804153994 Hong Kong AFP in English 0311 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Colombo, April 28 (AFP)—Sri Lanka President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga has indefinitely postponed a

planned visit to China amid a serious crisis within his ruling party, press reports here said Thursday [28 April].

Wijetunga was due to leave on May 8 on a five-day tour of China which was to be his first foreign visit since coming to power in May last year.

State-run newspapers said Wijetunga had put off the trip indefinitely, but gave no reason for the move. However, the privately-ownned Sinhalese language Divaina newspaper said the decision was due to serious squabbling within his party.

Sections of the ruling United National Party (UNP) have openly questioned Wijetunga's ability to lead them to victory at national elections later this year, following the UNP's humiliating defeat at a local election last month.

The March 24 defeat in the southern provincial council elections, is seen as the most serious set back for the UNP since it came to power in 1977.

Egypt-Bound Ship With Chemical Cargo Released

BK2804044394 Hong Kong AFP in English 0400 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Colombo, April 28 (AFP)—Sri Lankan authorities released an Egypt-bound cargo of chemicals detained at the main port here on suspicion that it could be used to make nerve gas, officials said Thursday [28 April].

The three containers of phosporous pentasulphide arrived here four weeks ago from the Indian port of Bombay for transshipment to a consignee in Egypt, port officials said.

The Defence Ministry ordered the containers to be released this week following investigations regarding the end use of the cargo. The chemical is used to make pesticides and is also an ingredient in the manufacture of nerve gas.

The Egyptian embassy in Colombo had informed the authorities that the cargo was intended for the legitimate use of one of its chemical plants, the Dyestuffs and Chemicals of Kafar Dawar.

Security Forces Launch Anti-LTTE Operations

BK2604133094 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] The security forces, in an operation code named Jayamaga against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], began their task to extend the Army's area of control by (?acquiring) 75 square km in the Vavuniya District. A military spokesman told LANKAPUVATH that the troops—directed from (Aptran) by Army Commander Lieutenant General Gerry De Silva—had already extended their forward defense localities by 35 square km last afternoon. They also liberated 500 farmer families from the LTTE control in Vavuniya's green rice belt. The operation has been launched with a view to rescuing farmer families from the LTTE. The Army commander had toured the new forward defense locality. He also held a series of meetings with the farming families. Arrangements have been made to immediately supply emergency stocks of logistics.

In another incident in the Eastern Province, troops of Operation (?Fighting) located and destroyed three terrorist bases and 24 huts in which the LTTE cadres were accommodated. They also recovered 43 bags of rice, stocks of medicines, and antipersonnel mines. A report from Amparai says that STF [Special Task Force] commanders have destroyed two LTTE hideouts at Kanchikudichiyaru and located an abandoned terrorist camp and destroyed it.

Economic Growth Estimated at 6.5 Percent for 1994

BK2504141794 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Sri Lanka expects to achieve at least over 6.5 percent economic growth in 1994. According to the Central Bank, in the first two months main traditional agricultural exports increased substantially showing a healthy growth in the gross domestic product. Production of tea in January and February was 37 million kg. This is an increase of 12 percent over the corresponding period last year. Coconut production rose by 11 percent to 329 million coconuts compared with 296 million coconuts in the first two months of 1993. The Paddy Marketing Board purchased 1,692 metric tons of rice during the period under review. It is an increase of four percent compared to 1,630 metric tons purchased during January and February last year.

Deputy Governor of the Central Bank. A.S. Jayewardene said that the targeted economic growth for the year 1993 at the beginning of the year was 5.7 percent, but with the impressive economic performance, the real economic growth has now been estimated at 6.5 percent for that year. He said that this upward trend in the economy was continuing.

Increase in External Assets Reported

BK2404115994 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Sri Lanka's external assets rose substantially by $735 million. According to Central Bank statistics, the official reserve has also recorded an increase. This increase of $736 [as heard] million reflects the growing capital inflows and remittances. The country's foreign assets increased to 2,298 million rupees by the end of February this year. The remittances of foreign expatriates have also recorded an increase of 16 percent. The tourist arrivals recorded an upsurge of four percent.